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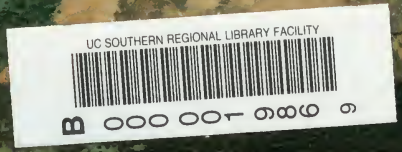

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TOPOGRAPHICAL

AND

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE COUNTY OF

NORTHAMPTON;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Minerals,	Markets,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Roads,	Commerce,	Biography,
Rivers,	Agriculture,	Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE;

Exhibiting the Direct and Principal Cross Roads, Inns, and Distances of Stages, and Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats;

FORMING A

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY:

ALSO,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

AND AN INDEX TABLE,

Shewing, at one View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO. PATERNOSTER-ROW;

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

B. M'Millan, Printer,
Bow-street, Covent-garden.

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

Bounded by	Extent	Contains	Sends to Parliament	Produce and Manufactures.
Rutlandshire and Lincolnshire on the north; By Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire, on the east; By Buckinghamshire, and a part of Oxfordshire, on the south; And on the west, by another part of Oxfordshire.	It extends 66 miles in length, 30 in breadth, and is 216 miles in circumference.	20 hundreds. 336 parishes. 1 city. 11 market-towns. 32,503 houses. 162,183 inhabitants. 617,000 acres.	9 Members, viz. 2 for the shire, 2 for Peterborough, 2 for Northampton, 2 for Brackley, 1 for Higham Ferrers.	Horned cattle, horses, and sheep. Woad for the dyers, is cultivated here in abundance. Its principal manufacture is in boots and shoes: there is also a small trade in wool combing and jenney-spinning carried on.

Northamptonshire is included in the Midland Circuit, in the Diocese of Peterborough, and Province of Canterbury.

B2 5305

INDEX OF COMPUTED DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Northampton.

The Names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet, gives the Distance.

	Brackley ..... distant from London ..... Miles 63												
Daventry	22	Daventry 72											
Higham Ferrers	36	27	Higham Ferrers 64										
Kettering	36	28	10	Kettering 74									
Northampton ...	20	12	16	16	Northampton 66								
Oundle	47	40	15	14	27	Oundle 77½							
Peterborough ...	60	52	28	27	40	13	Peterborough 81						
Rockingham	45	37	19	9	25	14	22	Rockingham 83					
Rothwell	35	27	14	4	15	14	27	8	Rothwell 78				
Thrapston	40	33	8	9	20	8	19	17	12	Thrapston 73			
Towcester	11	13	25	25	9	35	48	34	24	29	Towcester 60		
Weldon	45	30	16	12	25	8	18	12	10	9	32	Weldon 83	
Wellingborough	30	22	6	7	10	18	29	16	11	9	19	15	Wellingborough ... 67

A LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE;

Their Distance from London, Markets, Houses, and Inhabitants; with the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dist.	Markets.	Inhabit. Houses	Inhabi-tants.	Post arrives.	Departs.
Brackley.....	63	Wed.	341	1851	8½ m.	4 aft.
Daventry	72	Wed.	639	3326	6¼ m.	6 aft.
Higham Ferrers	64	Sat.	153	877	5¾ aft.	6½ aft.
Kettering	75	Friday.	781	3668	7½ m.	5 aft.
Northampton ...	66	W.F.S.	2023	1,0793	5½ m.	6¼ aft.
Oundle	77½	Sat.	460	2279	9 m.	3 aft.
Peterborough ...	81	Sat.	950	4598	7¼ m.	4½ aft.
Rockinghan ...	83	Thurs.	57	278	9¼ m.	5 aft.
Rothwell	78	—	412	1845	—	—
Thrapston	73	Tues.	159	854	9 m.	3 aft.
Towcester	60	Tues.	529	2554	4½ m.	7½ aft.
Weldon	83	Wed.	123	567	—	—
Wellingborough	67	Wed.	905	4454	6 m.	4 aft.

The price of postage of a single letter, throughout the county, varies from seven-pence to eight-pence.

AN ITINERARY

OF ALL THE

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:

IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED

THE STAGES, INNS, AND GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the figures that follow, shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R. *and* L.

LONDON TO NORTHAMPTON.

From Hicks's-hall to Islington-church			*Near Holloway turnpike,*
About half a m. before Holloway turnpike, a T. R. on R. *by Highbury, Crouch-end, Muswell-hill, and Colney-hatch, & falls into this road again at Whetstone.*		1¼	*at Highbury, Highbury-house, E. Knight, esq.; Highbury-hill, — Wilson, esq.; and Highbury-lodge, — Huslope, esq.*
Holloway turnpike	1	2¼	*Archway, J. Hunter, esq.* R.
Junction of the Kentish-Town road	1½	3¾	
On L. *a T. R. to Kentish-Town.*			
Highgate-archway	¼	4	*Fitzroy-farm, A. Robarts, esq.; and Caen-wood, Earl of Mansfield,* L.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

HUNDREDS

1 Spelloe	11 Polebrook
2 Nobottle Grove	12 Navisford
3 Fawsley	13 Higham Ferrers
4 Guilsborough	14 Hamford Shoe
5 Rothwell	15 Wymersley
6 Orlingbury	16 Towcester
7 Huxloe	17 Cleley
8 Corby	18 Greene Norton
9 Willybrook	19 Chipping Warden
10 Nassaburgh	20 Kingsutton

CAMBRIDGE S. HUNTINGDONSHIRE BEDFORDSHIRE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LINCOLNSHIRE RUTLANDSHIRE LEICESTERSHIRE WARWICKSHIRE OXFORD

Scale of Statute Miles

The City & County Town are denoted by red and the respective Hundreds of the County by different Colours which distinctions are peculiar to the superior Edition

Green Man	2¾	6¾	*Beyond on* L. *Elm-place, A. Murray, esq.; and Moss-hall, T. H. Andrey, esq.; half mile on* R. *Wood-house, Sir N. Conant, bart.*
Whetstone	2¼	9	*On* L. *at Totteridge, E. Arrowsmith, esq.; and the Priory, F. Holbrooke, esq.*
Green-hill Cross ..	1	10	*Underhill, Keane Fitzgerald, esq.* L.; *Green-hill Grove, R. Nichol, esq.; Lion's-down, A. Reid, esq.*
BARNET, *Herts* ..	1	11	*Through, at Hadley, Col. Stapleton; and Hadley-house, Mrs. Vere,* R.—Inns: *Green Man, Red Lion.*
The Obelisk, *Middlesex*	¾	11¾	
On R. *a T. R. to Hatfield and Hertford: on* L. *to Kitt's-end.*			
Kitt's-end	½	12¼	*Derem-park, J. Trotter, esq.* L.; *New Lodge, Mrs. Baronneau; and Wrotham-park, Geo. Byng, esq.* R.
South Mims	2½	14¾	*Before, see Laurel-lodge, Capt. Ellis,* L.; *entrance of South Mims, Bridge-foot, E. Vincent, esq.* R. —Inn: *White Hart.*
Ridge-hill, *Herts* ..	1¼	16	*Near, on* R. *Potterells, Sir Wm. Weller Pepys, bart., 1 mile dist. on* L.; *Shenley-Parsonage, Rev. T. Newcome,* L.; *at 17 mile, Tittenhanger-park, Earl of Hardwick,* R.

London Colney ·· *Cross the Colne river.*	1¾	17¾	*Beyond, Colney-house, P. Haddow, esq.*
St. Alban's ···· *On R. a T. R. to Hatfield and Luton: on* L. *to Watford.*	3¼	21	*Mile and a half before New Barns, J. Timperton, esq.; at St. Alban's, Holywell-house, J. Reid, esq.; and at 23 miles, Gorhambury, Earl Verulam,* L.; *2 miles beyond St. Alban's, in the road to Luton, Childwick-house, J. Lomax, esq.*—Inns: *Angel, White Hart, Woolpack.*
Redburn ····· *At the 26 milestone, a T. R. on* L. *to Hemel Hempsted.*	4¼	25¼	1 *mile distant, on* R. *Rothampsted, J. B. Lawes, esq.; opposite the 27 milestone, on* L. *Flamstead-house, J. Lambert, esq.*
Market-Street ·· ·	4	29¼	*Near, on* R. *Market-cell, late J. Howell, esq.;* 1 *mile distant, on* L. *Beechwood-park, Sir John Sebright, bart.*—Inn: *The Sun.*
Dunstable ···· *On* L. *a T. R. to Berkhampsted, by the Earl of Bridgewater's new road.*	4¼	33½	*Beyond, on* L. *see Houghton-house, H. Brandreth, esq.*—Inns: *Crown, Sugar-loaf.*
Hockliffe ····· *On* R. *a T. R. to Woburn: on* L. *to Leighton-Buzzard. West of Hockliffe, the road has been levelled, and considerably improved.*	3¾	37¼	*Hockliffe-grange, R. Gilpin, esq.* L.; *beyond, Battlesden-park, Sir Gregory Osborne Page Turner, bart.*
Brickhill, *Bucks* ·· *Cross the Grand*	6	43¼	*Great Brickhill-house, P. Duncombe, esq.; and*

Junction Canal at Brickhill. The road has also been turned, and improved.			*Stockgrove, W. H. Hanmer, esq.* L.——Inns: *George, White Lion.*
Fenny Stratford ..	1¾	45	
Shenley	3½	48½	*Whaddon-hall, W. S. Lowndes, esq.* L.
STONEY STRATFORD	3¾	52¼	*Before, at Great Linford, see Linford-house, J. Uthwatt, esq.* R.; *at, on* L. *Thornton-hall, Sir T. Sheppard, bart.*—Inns: *Bull, Cock.*
Cross the Ouse river, & the Grand Junction Canal.			
Yardley Gobyon, *Northampton* ..	2¾	55	
King's Grafton ..	1½	56½	*Grafton-lodge, Rev.* — *Bright,* L.; 1 *mile beyond King's Grafton, Stoke-park, Lewis Vernon, esq.* L.; 1 *mile beyond, Courteen-hall, Sir W. Wake, bart.* R.
Cross the Tow river and the Grand Junction Canal.			
Rode-lane	2½	59	
Wooton-bridge ..	3½	62½	*Wooton-hall, Rev.— Field,* L.
Queen's Cross	½	64	*Delapre-abbey, Edw. Bouverie, esq.* R.
On R. *a T. R. to Newport Pagnell. Cross the Nen river to*			
NORTHAMPTON ..	2	66	*Fortunatus Dwarris, esq., and beyond, the woods in Althorpe-park, Earl Spencer,* L.

HIGHAM FERRERS TO WHITE WATER, T. G.

THROUGH THRAPSTON.

Higham Ferrers to *Cross the river Nen.*		
Irthlingborough, T. G.	1½	1½
On L. *a T. R. to*		

to Kettering; on R. to			
Little Addington	2	3½	
Great Addington	1¼	4¾	
Woodford . . .	1¼	6	
Near Thrapston, on L. a T. R. to Kettering.			
THRAPSTON . . .	2½	8½	*Near Thrapston is Woodford-lodge, Right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot.*
At Thrapston, on R. a T. R. to Huntingdon.			*Drayton-house, Duke of Dorset, R.; and farther to the left, Firming Woods, Ladies Fitzpatrick.*
Thorpe Waterville	2½	11	*Between Thorpe Waterville and Barnwell, at Lilford, Lord Lilford, L.*
A mile beyond, on R. a T. R. to Kimbolton.			
Barnwell St. Andrews	3½	14½	*Barnwell-castle, R. H. Oddy, esq. R.*
Cross the river Nen, to			
OUNDLE	2	16½	*2 miles distant, on L. Biggin-hall, Lady Pocock.*
Cross the river Nen.			
Tansor	1¾	18¼	*Before, at Cotterstock, Cotterstock-hall, Lady Booth.*
Cross the river Nen.			
Fotheringhay . .	1½	19¾	*The ruins of the castle where Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded. On R. of Fotheringhay, at Elton, Elton-hall, Earl of Carysfort.*
Nassington . . .	2	21¾	
Yarwell	1	22¾	
Wandsford . . .	1	23¾	
At Wandsford, on			

R. *a T. R. to Peterborough; on* L. *to Uppingham.*			
Randside . . .	¾	24½	
White Water, T.G.	2¾	27¼	1 *mile before, on* R. *Walcot-hall, Hon. W. Noel.*
Cross the Welland river to Stamford, in Lincolnshire.			*About 2 miles beyond White Water, Burleigh-house, Marquis of Exeter,* R.

PETERBOROUGH TO NORBOROUGH;

THROUGH WERRINGTON.

Peterborough to			*On* L. *of Peterborough, at Longthorp, Thorpe-hall, E. Jenkins, esq.; and further, to the* L. *Milton-park, Earl Fitzwilliam.*
At Peterborough, on L. *a T. R. to Uppingham & Stamford.*			
Walton	2¾	2¾	
Werrington . . .	¾	3½	
Glinton	2	5½	
At Glinton, on R. *a T. R. to Peakirk, thence to Dunbeer, and thence to Crowland, in Lincolnshire.*			
Norborough . . .	1¼	6¾	*Here are the remains of a mansion, formerly belonging to Earl Fitzwilliam,* R.
Half a mile beyond Norborough, on R. *a T. R. to Spalding.*			

THE BARLEY-MOW INN TO THRAPSTON;

THROUGH NORTHAMPTON.

Barley-Mow Inn, to			*Near, see Tusmore-park, W. Fermor, esq.; and Tusmore-house, Sir H. Peyton, bart.*
On R. *a T. R. to Buckingham; on* L. *to Banbury.*			
Near Brackley,			*Between the Barley-Mow*

on L. *to Banbury.*			*Inn and Brackley, on* R.
BRACKLEY . . .	2	2	*at Evenely, Evenely-hall, Hon. P. S. Pierrepont.*
At Brackley, on R. *a T. R. to Buckingham.*			
Syersham . . .	4	6	*Biddlesden, Biddlesden-house, G. Morgan, esq.* R.
Over Whittlebury Forest, to			
Silverston, *or* Silston	3	9	*On* R. *near Whittlebury, Shelbrook-lawn, Hon. Gen. Fitzroy; and the seat of John Beauclerk, esq.*
TOWCESTER . .	4	13	*Euston Neston, Earl of Pomfret,* R.
At Towcester, on R. *a T. R. to Stoney Stratford; on* L. *to Daventry.*			
Cross the Tone river.			
Hulcote	1	14	
Near Blisworth, cross the Grand Junction Canal.			
Blisworth . . .	3	17	— *Rev. John Ambrose,* R.
Milton	1½	18½	
Near Northampton, cross the river Nen.			
NORTHAMPTON . .	3½	22	
On R. *a T. R. to Stoney Stratford; on* L. *to Daventry.*			
Abington . . .	2	24	*J. H. Thursby, esq.*
Western Favel . .	½	24½	
Great Billing . .	2	26½	*R. C. Elwes, esq.*
			About a mile to the L. *of Great Billing, Overstone-park, J. Kipling, esq.*
Ecton	1½	28	*S. Isted, esq.* R.; *and* 3

Wilby	3	31	*miles distant, Castle-Ashby, Marquis of Northampton.*
WELLINGBOROUGH *At Wellingborough, on* L. *a T. R. to Kettering; on* R. *to Olney.*	2	33	
Finedon, *end of* . . *At Finedon, on* R. *a T. R. to Higham Ferrers; on* L. *to Kettering.*	3	36	*Finedon-hall, Sir J. Dolben, bart.*
Division of the road *On* L. *to Kettering, by Cranford St. John's. Near Thrapston, cross the river Nen.*	4	40	
THRAPSTON . . .	4	44	2 *miles before Thrapston, on* R. *Woodford-lodge, Right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot.*

HORTON INN TO WELFORD;
THROUGH NORTHAMPTON.

Horton Inn, to . .			*Horton-house, Sir G. W. Gunning, bart.* R.; *and about 3 miles beyond it, on* R. *Castle-Ashby, Earl of Northampton.*
Hackleton . . .	1½	1½	*On* L. *at Preston, L. Christie, esq.*
— — —			*Courteen-hall, Sir William Wake, bart.* L.
Queen's Cross . . *At Queen's Cross, on* L. *a T. R. to Stoney Stratford.*	4	5½	*Delapre Abbey, Edw. Bouverie, esq.*
NORTHAMPTON . . *On* L. *a T. R. to*	2	7½	

Daventry; on R. *to Wellingborough.*			
Kingsthorpe ...	1½		*F. Dwarris, esq.; and a little further, Althorpe-park, Earl Spencer.*
On R. *a T. R. to Market-Harborough; on* L. *to*			
— — —			*Boughton-house, Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry.*
Chapel Brampton	2¾	11¾	
— — —			*A mile to the* L. *on a hill, Holdenby or Helmby-house; where Charles the First was imprisoned by the Parliament forces.*
Creaton	3½	15¼	*Teeton-house, John Langton, esq.* L.
— — —			*Holwell, W. Lucas, esq.* L.; *Cottesbrooke, Sir James Langham, bart.* R.; *and a little farther on* L. *Guilsborough, W. Z. Ward, esq.*
Thornby	3½	18¾	
— — —			*Naseby-Field, which is judged to be the centre of England,* R.
			Sulby-hall, John Payne, esq. R.
Welford	3¼	22	
At Welford, on R. *a T. R. to Leicester.*			
Cross the river Avon, and enter Leicestershire.			

BOZEAT TO LITTLE BOWDEN;

THROUGH KETTERING.

Bozeat, to . . .			*About two miles from the road, on* L. *Castle-Ashby, Earl Northampton; and about two miles on* R. *is*

			Hinwick-house, Richard Orlebar, esq.
Wollaston . . .	3	3	*F. Dickins, esq.*
London Bridge . .	3	6	
Cross the river Nen.			
WELLINGBOROUGH	1	7	
At Wellingborough, on L. *a T. R. to Northampton; on* R. *to Thrapston.*			
Great Harrowden	1½	8½	*About two miles to the* R. *at Finedon, Sir J. Dolben, bart.*
Isham	2	10½	*A mile to the* L. *at Orlingbury, A. E. Young, esq., and the Rev. — Whitenhurst; about a mile beyond Isham, and a mile to the* L. *at Pitchley, G. Payne, esq.*
Within three quarters of a mile of Kettering, on R. *a T. R. to Thrapston.*			
KETTERING . .	3½	14	*Two miles to the* R. *Boughton-house, Duchess of Buccleuch; and about 2 miles beyond, on* L. *at Thorp, T. C. Maunsell, esq.; on* R. *Glendonhall, J. Booth, esq.*
At Kettering, on R. *a T. R. to Uppingham.*			
Rothwell, *or* Rowell	4	18	*About one mile beyond, on* L. *see Thorp, John Cook, esq.; about two miles to the* R. *at Rushton, Mrs. Cockayne Medlicote.*
Desborough . .	1½	19½	
— — —			*Dingley, Henry Hungerford Holdich, esq.*
The Fox Inn . .	2	21½	
Little Bowden . .	3	24½	
Beyond Little Bowden, on L. *a*			

T. R. to Northampton. *Cross the Welland river, and enter Leicestershire.*			

YARDLEY GOBYON TO NORTHAMPTON.

Yardley Gobyon, to			
King's Grafton . .	1½	1½	*A mile beyond King's Grafton, on* L. *Stoke-park, Levison Vernon, esq.*
Cross the Tow river, and the Grand Junction Canal.			
Rhode Lane . .	2½	4	*Courteen-hall, Sir William Wake, bart.*
On R. *to Rhode,*			
Queen's Cross . .	5	9	*Delapre Abbey, Edw. Bouverie, esq.* R.
At Queen's Cross, on R. *a T. R. to Newport Pagnell; on* L. *cross the river Nen, to*			
NORTHAMPTON . .	2	11	

OLD STRATFORD TO BRAUNSTON;
THROUGH TOWCESTER.

Old Stratford to			*Cosgrove-hall, T. C. Maunsell,* R.
Potterspury . . .	2	2	
— — —			*Wakefield-lodge, Duke of Grafton,* L.
Heavencot . . .	4¼	6¼	*Stoke-park,* L. *Vernon, esq.* R.; *and on* L. *at Whittlebury, Shelbrook-lawn, Hon. Gen. Fitzroy.*
TOWCESTER . . .	¾	7	*Easton Neston, Earl of Pomfret,* R.; *about a mile and a half from Towcester, on* L. *Braden-house, C. Ives, esq.*
At Towcester, on L. *a T. R. to Brackley.*			
Cross the Tone river.			

On R. *a T. R. to Northampton.*			
Foster's Booth . .	4	11	*Two miles from Foster's Booth, on* R. *Bugbroke, Rev. H. B. Harrison.*
On R. *a T. R. to Northampton; on* L. *to Brackley.*			
Weedon Beck . .	4	15	*Stowe, Rev. — Crawley,* L.; *and on* R. *Flowes, Miss Kirby. About three miles beyond Weedon, on* L. *at a considerable distance from the road, Fawsley-park, Rev. Sir Charles Knightly, bart.*
Cross the Grand Junction Canal.			
On R. *along the Watling-Street road to Atherstone.*			
DAVENTRY . . .	4½	19¼	*Near, on* R. *Burrow-hill, a Roman camp. At Daventry, on* R. *Norton, Mrs. Bolfield; a mile and a half beyond Daventry, on* R. *at Welton, Welton-place, T. P. Clarke, esq.*
At Daventry, on L. *a T. R. to Southam; on* R. *to Lutterworth.*			
Cross the Grand Junction Canal.			
Braunston . . .	3¼	22½	
Cross the Grand Junction Canal, and enter Warwickshire.			

END OF ITINERARY.

LIST OF FAIRS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Boughton Green.—June 24, 25, 26, for timber, poles, ladders, coopers' ware, turnery, braziery, china, birch besoms, rakes, forks, scythe-hones, leather-bottles, cabinet, and all sorts of other goods; a large fair for ready-made clothes, hats, and stockings, the last day a small horse fair.

Brackley.—Wednesday after February 25, horses, cows, and sheep; second Wednesday in April, horses, cows, and sheep; Wednesday after June 22, Wednesday after October 11, horses and cows, and hiring of servants; December 11, horses, cows, and sheep.

Brigstock.—April 25, St. Mark, horses and horned cattle; Sept. 4, Old St. Bartholomew, sheep, brass, and pewter; November 22, Old Martinmas, black hats, boots, shoes, and pedlary.

Brixworth.—May 1, Whit-Monday, for cloth of all sorts, hardware, and toys.

Daventry.—First Monday in January, Easter Tuesday, for horses and horned cattle; June 7, for swine, and all sorts of goods; August 3, horned cattle, horses, and sheep; October 2, for cattle, cheese, and onions, &c.; October 27, (called Ram Fair) for sheep chiefly.

Fotheringhay.—Third Monday after Old Midsummer, July 6, for horses.

Higham Ferrers.—Thursday before February 5, March 7, or Leap Year March 6, Thursday before May 12, June 28, Thursday before August 5, Thursday after August 15, horses and horned cattle; October 10, horses, horned cattle, sheep, and hogs; St. Catherine, Dec. 6, horses, horned cattle, and sheep.

Kettering.—Thursday before Easter, Friday before Whit-Sunday, Thursday before Old Michaelmas, October 11, for horses, horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and pedlary. Fortnight market, sheep and cattle,

Thursday before St. Thomas, December 21, a fortnight market for sheep and cattle.

King's Cliff.—October 26, for cheese, homespun linen, and turners' ware.

Northampton.—February 20, horses, horned cattle, and toys; March 25, sheep and pedlary; April 6, May 4, June 19, August 5, all great horse fairs; August 26, all sorts of merchandize, and a great fair for cattle; September 19, chiefly cheese and sheep; first Thursday in November toll free, November 28, December 19, all sorts of cattle.

New Inn Road.—October 3, statute.

Oundle.—February 25, Whit-Monday, August 21, for horses, sheep, and a few cows; October 12, all sorts of stock and cheese.

Peterborough.—July 10, October 2, for horses, stock of all sorts, and timber wrought.

Rockingham.—September 25, horses, cows, sheep, and hogs, pewter, black hats, and cloths.

Rowell, or *Rothwell.*—Trinity Monday, for horses, horned cattle, and pedlary, all the week, and leather the last day only.

Thrapston.—First Tuesday in May, St. James's, O. S. August 5, for pedlary, shoes, &c. and hiring harvestmen; and first Tuesday after Michaelmas a large market.

Towcester.—Shrove-Tuesday, May 12, Tuesday before October 10, statute; October 29, all sorts of cattle and merchandize.

Weldon.—First Thursdays in February, May, August, and November, for brass, pewter, hats, linen, and woollen cloth.

Wellinborough.—Easter-Wednesday, horses and hogs; Whit-Wednesday, horses, horned cattle, and sheep; October 29, ditto, and cheese.

West Haddon.—May 2, for hats, hardware, and cloth.

Yardley.—Whit-Tuesday, for horned cattle and horse-furniture.

BANKING HOUSES.

Place.	Firm.	On whom they draw in London.
Daventry	Watkins and Son	Sikes and Co.
	Hall and Morgan	Jones, Loyd, & Co.
Kettering	Keep and Co.	Masterman and Co.
Northampton	J. Percival and Son	Esdaile and Co.
Northampton	Smith, Osborn, & Co.	Praeds and Co.
Oundle	Smith and Co.	Everett and Co.
Oundle	D. J. & C. F. Yorke	Frys and Chapman.
Peterborough	Simpson & White	Grote and Co.
Peterborough	D. Yorke and Co.	Frys & Chapman.
Thrapston	Eaton and Ealand	Masterman & Co.
Wellingborough & Northampton	Morton, Rodick, and Co.	Barclay and Co.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Grafton, that of Duke to the Fitzroys;—*Thornhaugh*, to the Russels;—*Peterborough*, the title of Marquis to the Mordaunts;—*Harrington* and *Northampton*, the same to the Stanhopes, and to the Compton families;—*Norborough* and *Milton*, that of Earl to the family of Wentworth Fitzwilliam;—*Brackley* gives the same title to the Egertons;—*Daventry* to the Spencers;—*Boughton* to the Scotts;—*Braybrooke* to the Nevills; and *Lilford* to the Powys families.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

These are held at Northampton, on January 13, April 13, July 13, October 19.—At Peterborough, Jan. 12, April 12, July 12, October 18.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

NAME, AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

THE Aborigines of this county were by the Romans called *Coritani*. These being subjugated, their conquerors soon began to form military roads and fortresses. Two great roads, or *via strata*, crossed the county, and were directly or collaterally connected with several permanent stations, temporary encampments, and vicinal ways. The Watling-street in proceeding from the south towards the north, enters Northamptonshire at or near Stratford, and continuing almost in a direct line, leaves it at Dove-bridge. On this course there appears to have been three *stations*, as mentioned both in the second and sixth *Iters* of Antoninus, and also in the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester. There have also been other works of the Romans on the western side of the county. The great encampment, called *Castle Dykes*, south-west of Weedon, appears to have been either formed or altered by the Romans. It was a fortress of great strength and magnitude. About three miles to the east is Nether Heyford, where a tesselated pavement was discovered in 1699. About three miles south-west of Daventry, is Arbury Barns, a large encampment on the summit of a hill. At Guilsborough are some entrenchments called the Boroughs. Raynsbury Camp is situated between the villages of Aynho and Newbottle, in the south-west angle of the county. In nearly a direct line south from Raynsbury Camp, in the county of Oxford, the remains of the Roman road called the Port-way, points towards Aldeester and Chesterton; and nearly parallel with that street, is a raised mound called Aveditch-bank. On the eastern

side of the county, the Roman road called the Forty Foot-way, or Ermine-street, enters the county from Huntingdonshire, near the village of Castor, where it passed the Nen river, and is still conspicuous between Castor and Upton. In fact, no less than twenty-seven towns and villages are pointed out in different parts of Northamptonshire, where remains have been found indicating Roman possession.

Soon after the Saxons had usurped possession of Britain, the present county was included within the Mercian monarchy. Under this, the great monasteries of Medenhamsted, now Peterborough and Crowland, were founded. Medenhamsted became so famous, that it was called *Urbs Regia*, the Royal City, and *Aurea Civitas*, the Golden City. Under King Wulfere's charter of endowments, dated 664, it appears that several places in the vicinity of Peterborough were tributary to it. At Stamford Baron the monks of Medenhamsted had a mint. Northampton, then called *Hamtune*, under the Saxons, was a place of considerable strength during the repeated conflicts between the Saxons and Danes. Previous to the year 921, Towcester was burnt by the latter, but was rebuilt by order of King Edward, who marched an army towards Passenham, in order to expel the Danes. About this time, Towcester was encompassed with a stone wall.

Soon after the Norman Conquest, the county of Northampton was subdivided into the following proportions: to Allan Rufus, 1 manor; Waltheof Earl of Northampton, 4 manors; Judith, his Countess, 88 manors; Robert Earl of Moreton and Cornwall, 99 manors; Robert Earl of Millent and Leicester, 3 manors; Robert de Vesce, 1; Robert de Todenei, 9; Robert de Stafford, 1; Alberic de Vere, 6; Jeffery de Magnaville, 7; Walter D'Eincourt, 1; Gumfrid de Corches, 16; Ralph de Limesi, 2; Ralph de Grantmesnil, 20; William Fitz-Ausculph, 4; William Peverel, 4; Robert D'Oyley, 3; Ranulph de Peverel, 44 lordships. Besides these, the king retained

several; others belonged to monasteries, and some were granted to several persons of inferior consideration.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Northamptonshire is an inland county, situated nearly in the centre of England, between 52 and 53 degrees of north latitude, and between the meridian of London and 1 degree 20 minutes north latitude, and 1 degree 20 minutes west longitude. It is bounded on the north by Leicestershire, Rutlandshire, and Lincolnshire; on the east by Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire; on the south by Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; and on the west by Warwickshire. The form is oblong; and its greatest length from the south-west at Aynho, to the north-east part of Peterborough Fen, is 65 or 66 miles in a straight line; and the breadth across the county, from the east side of Yardley Chase to the entrance of Leicestershire, near Welford, about 24 miles. It contains between 910 and 1000 square miles, or about 640,000 acres.

About the year 1670, the inhabitants of Crowland, in Lincolnshire, laid claim to about 400 acres of ground adjoining the Great Borough Fen, and which were formerly considered as part of the county; but the inhabitants of the Soke asserting their right of possession, the dispute by trial at law was declared in their favour. A commission was then issued to a jury of gentlemen, of which Sir Edmundbury Godfrey is said to have been foreman, who came from London to view the premises. For this purpose they traced the boundaries of the county from St. Martin's at Stamford, with great exactness; and Northamptonshire was adjudged to extend eastward as far as Crowland-bridge. But in the parish of Barnack, the most northern situation, the distinct limits not being settled, still continue, as in some adjoining parishes, uncertain. Its greatest breadth from Hargrave in the east, to Barley in the west, is estimated at about thirty miles; yet the average width is perhaps not

twenty; and from Brackley across to Astrop in the south, also from Peterborough northerly to Peakirk, does not exceed eight miles. The circumference may be estimated at 216 miles.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The climate of this county is very favourable both to health and vegetation. It is in a great measure exempted from deep falls of snow and long continued rains: hence, as the seasons change gradually, the health of the people is little affected, and the operations of husbandry seldom suspended long. Its elevation and its distance from the sea, are the causes that the aqueous vapours are exhausted before their arrival here; and also because there are no mountains to break the rolling clouds overcharged with snow. Properly speaking, the whole county contains neither mountain nor bog; the highest point of land not exceeding 800 feet perpendicularly above the sea.

As to the soil, this county contains no land but what may be easily drained, the fall being every where sufficient, and the bottom, or under stratum, generally loose and open in its texture. The lowest land in the county is Peterborough Fen, but which has been partly drained many years since. Thus being free from mountains and bogs, the county may be pronounced temperate, healthy, and congenial to the constitution and economy of animal and vegetable life: it has also less rain than those nearer the western ocean; the largest proportion of rain coming from the south and west. The soil in general is equally adapted for corn or pasturage, and fertile in both. The surface in its general aspect comprehends great beauty and variety, having very few instances of dead extensive flats. The greater part of this county is agreeably varied by waving hills and gradual declivities, with intervening vales and rivulets murmuring down towards the rivers, forming an interesting scene of vale and upland. Not an inch of land but what may be rendered useful; the hedges and trees grow with luxuriance; the is country well watered by its

brooks and rivers, interspersed with woods and seats of gentlemen; even the open common fields, covered with crops of grain, within sight of every rising ground, increase the variety, and add to the general appearance of beauty and fertility. The upper and middle parts are richly ornamented with extensive woods, which are intersected with numerous vistas and beautiful lawns. The various avenues of trees extending in many parts for miles together; the rivers and streams winding along the vales, answer a variety of purposes, both in agriculture and trade; the many beautiful villages and populous towns, with their churches and lofty spires, (twenty of which may be seen at a time, when viewed from an eminence), present a prospect beautifully diversified and highly picturesque, which cannot fail to delight the eye, and enliven the heart of every spectator.

POPULATION.

Northamptonshire returns nine members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for Peterborough, two for Northampton, two for Brackley, and one for Higham Ferrers. The population of the county, according to the return of 1821, consisted of 162,483 persons, occupying 32,503 houses.

RIVERS AND CANALS.

Northamptonshire may justly boast, that in the important article of water, it is entirely and completely independent; for, of the six rivers which flow through, or intersect it, every one originates within its boundaries; and not a single brook, however insignificant, runs into it from any other district; whilst there is not a county bordering upon it, that is not in some degree supplied from its various and ample aquatic stores.

It is remarked by Norton as "a natural and unwrested observation, that the rivers of Northamptonshire are so equally and duly ranged and distributed, as if they ran in channels contrived and cut by art and labour, to convey a competent share of water to every part;" and, after particularizing their va-

rious courses, adds, "so that there is no town in the county five miles distant from one or other of the above-mentioned rivers or rivulets."

The principal rivers are the Nen, the Welland, the Ouse, the Avon, the Leam, and the Charwell.

The source of the NEN, or Nyne, has been disputed by the several villages of Naseby, Draugton, West Haddon, Fawsley, and Staverton; but it is now generally admitted that the northern branch springs from Chapel Well at Naseby, and the western from Hartwell, near Staverton, and both uniting at Northampton, form no inconsiderable river, which pursues its course in a north-easterly direction, and traversing the whole length of the county, it runs on in the same direction, and separating Cambridgeshire from Lincolnshire, falls into a bay of the German Ocean, called the Washes, or Lynn Deeps, from Lynn Regis in Norfolk.

This river was formerly navigable no higher than Peterborough; but after several ineffectual attempts to extend the navigation, it was at length accomplished in the year 1762, when boats laden with coal came up by Oundle, Thrapston, Higham Ferrers, and Wellingborough, to Northampton; the navigation is however still very defective and incomplete, but it is capable of being rendered highly serviceable to the towns on its banks. "At the wharf, in Northampton," observes Mr. Pitt, "not a single vessel, loading or unloading is to be seen; a crane stands solitary, and not the least stir of business: a small deposit of coals (from the rail-road course) and a few deals, comprise all the visible articles of commerce."

The WELLAND rises near the vicarage house at Sibbertoft, whence having flowed the short space of four miles, it reaches the skirts of the county, which adopts its devious wanderings as the line of boundary, during a lengthened course of nearly 50 miles, by Harborough, Rockingham, and Stamford, where it becomes navigable, through Deeping to Crowland,

when it enters Lincolnshire, and at length falls into the Foss-dyke Wash, near Boston.

The OUSE rises near Brackley, and running north-east through the counties of Buckingham, Bedford, Cambridge, and Norfolk, falls into the German Ocean at Lynn-Regis, in Norfolk.

The AVON, or lesser Avon, commences its course at Avon-well near Naseby, and flowing in a westerly direction, passes into Warwickshire.

The LEAM, which rises from the village of Hellidon, is immediately joined by other rills from Catesby and Staverton, with which it hastens into Warwickshire, and having given name to the two villages of Leamington, meets the lesser Avon, into which it falls, and the junction forms the *celebrated Avon*, which passing Warwick, intersects the county, and meandering through Worcestershire, ultimately loses itself in the Severn.

The CHARWELL, which derives its name from a small spring of the same name, near Charnelton, after passing in silent obscurity by Banbury, finishes its career at the city of Oxford, where it resigns its identity to the Thames, and is discharged with it into the Eastern Ocean.

CANALS.

The first artificial canal that rendered any benefit to this county, was the Oxford, which passes through the parishes of Aynho, Boddington, Braunston, and Barby, all on the western verge of Northamptonshire. At Braunston it joins the Grand Junction Canal, which crosses the western side of this county. This navigable cut was planned for the purpose of opening a water communication between the river Thames, and the principal inland canals of the kingdom. It was intended for vessels of 60 tons burthen. There are two reservoirs near its junction with the Oxford Canal; one of about 30 acres area, and the other of nearly 130 acres. In the course of the first mile from Braunston, the level of water is raised by lockage 37 feet; it is then continued upon that level

about four miles and a half, one mile of which is an excavation or tunnel through a hill. This is called the Braunston Tunnel; the water is afterwards lowered by lockage 172 feet to the level of the river Ouse; in its course passing by Wedon; after crossing beneath the great London road it is carried over a valley by an embankment of earth, nearly half a mile in length, and about 30 feet high: this embankment passing close to Wedon church-yard, the top water level is above the height of the level of the church, and nearly upon a level with the bells: there are two public highways for carriages, and one small river which pass under the canal, through the base of this embankment; the course of the cut is then continued north-easterly, recrossing the London road, and afterwards taking an eastern direction, passes to Lower Heyford, Bugbrook, and Gayton, to Blisworth; this is eighteen miles from Braunston, and so far is the canal navigable at this end. At Blisworth are erected extensive wharfage and warehouses for goods, as also two new inns on the banks of the canal, together with other works adapted to a growing place of trade; a railway branches off, at this place, to Northampton, where the river is 120 feet beneath the level of the canal at Blisworth. From this place the line of the cut is through a tunnel, which was a work of considerable difficulty, from the quality of the substratum and quantity of springs. The difficulties, however, were surmounted in the year 1806; and the passage thus formed through the hill, according to Mr. Pitt's opinion, is "a very masterly and surprising work of art." The course is next by Stoke-Bruen, Grafton Regis, and Cosgrove, where it enters Buckinghamshire. At Grafton the canal crosses the Tow river, and near Cosgrove it crosses the Ouse, and is raised by an embankment for a considerable distance, and to a great height above the meadows.

The UNION CANAL commences at and joins the river Soar navigation on the west side of Leicester,

and for near three miles, that is to Ayleston, runs with a few deviations in the course of that river; from Ayleston, running a southerly course, it passes Glen Parva, Wigston, Newton Harcourt, Wistow, and Saddington, where is a tunnel of forty chains; from this tunnel, making an elbow, it passes Foxton, where is another tunnel of forty-eight chains, passing which is the branch to Market Harborough; from the above tunnel it makes a bend, crosses the river Welland, and passes between Marston Trussel and Hothorp, and turns by East Farndon and Oxendon Magna, where is a small tunnel of thirteen chains; near here also is the reservoir for the summit level, supplied by the Oxendon Brook. From Oxendon it goes near Kelmarsh, where it passes another tunnel of forty-five chains, and proceeds by Maidwell, Lamport, Hanging Houghton, Brixworth, and parallel with that branch of the river Nen called the Northern river: it passes Spratton, Pisford, Chapel Brampton, Kingsthorp, Dallington, and on the west side of Northampton joins the river Nen navigation, and the branch of the Grand Junction canal; completing a course of forty-three miles and three quarters, from Leicester to Northampton, with 407 feet and a half of lockage, and passing through four tunnels. The branch to Market Harborough from the junction is three miles and three quarters, and is level. The lockage may be more particularly specified as follows: from West-bridge at Leicester, where it joins the Soar, to near Saddington, is twelve miles and three quarters, with 160 feet rise; from thence to near Oxendon Magna is thirteen miles and a half, and level: here in one furlong is a rise of fifty feet to the summit level, which continues to the south side of the tunnel at Kilmarsh, near five miles; from thence to the junction with the Northern river at Northampton, is eleven miles and three quarters, with 197 feet and a half fall; from thence to the Junction, with the river Nen, is three quarters of a mile, and level.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Northamptonshire is divided into twenty hundreds, viz. Naseburgh, Corby, Willybrook, Polebrook, Rothwell, Guilsborough, Orlingbury, Huxloe, Navisford, Fawsley, Nobottle Grove, Spelloe, Hamfordshoe, Higham Ferrers, Chipping Warden, Green's Norton, Towcester, Wymersley, King Sutton, and Cleley: which contain one city, Peterborough; three boroughs, Northampton, Brackley, and Higham Ferrers; and eight market towns, viz. Daventry, Kettering, Oundle, Rockingham, Rothwell, Thrapston, Towcester, and Wellingborough. The whole county contains 336 parishes, and 26,665 houses. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Peterborough.

RENT, AND SIZE OF FARMS.

Rents of enclosed lands run from 17*s.* to 25*s.* per acre, exclusive of tithes, from which the enclosed land is generally exempted. The average, hence, has been reckoned at 20*s.* to which may be added 3*s.* in the pound for poor rates. In the old enclosed parishes, farms of considerable extent have seldom exceeded 500*l.* a year; too much by 200*l.*; such large farms give too great latitude to monopoly, or command of markets. Mr. Donaldson observed, "that in the newly enclosed parishes, the farms are generally from 100*l.* to 300*l.* per annum." Mr. Young remarked, that in the open fields the farms were generally small, and about 70*l.* a year. These little occupations, which the Duke of Grafton and other good landlords had patience with, in order to nurse up industrious families, were not without some loss in repairs, and sometimes in other circumstances.

Rents, Mr. Donaldson observed, "are paid in money, by half-yearly instalments, the first half-year, twelve months after the tenant's entry on the farm, he being allowed to keep six months in hand."

Personal services are in many places kept up in a

small degree; such as a day's work with a team annually, to draw coals or other articles, besides the keeping of a game-dog for the landlord, &c.

TITHES, TENURES, AND LEASES.

All the modern enclosures in this county seem to be tithe-free; and the old enclosures being at grass, the evil has not been severely felt; hence the principal burthens were upon the open or common-field parishes.

As a proof of the advantage of commuting tithes, when the living of Kettering was enclosed, which in the open state was worth from 200*l.* to 300*l.* per annum, land being given instead of them, they amounted to between 700*l.* and 800*l.* per annum. The collection of tithes in kind, is however generally complained of. It has happened (though to the credit of the clergy the instances are very rare), that where the tithes have been let to a layman for the purpose of oppression, he has been known to exert all that authority he possessed, and not only taken the tenth stook of corn, and the tenth cole of hay, but also the tenth lamb, pig, hen's egg, &c.; nay, has even gone into the garden, and not only taken the tenth part of the fruit, but also the tenth part of the produce of the kitchen-garden.

LEASES.

In this county there are scarcely any lands held by tenants under leases, except those granted by the bishop, dean and chapter of Peterborough, which are for 21 years, renewable every seven. The tenants in general possess their farms only from year to year. There are, however, written agreements entered into between both parties, in which the mode of cropping lands is specified. The farm-house and offices are generally kept in repair at the joint expence of the parties; though in a great many instances, the whole expence rests with the tenant. The tenant is on all occasions expressly debarred from breaking up any pasture grass, and from selling hay or straw. The term of entering into a grazing farm, is at Lady-day;

to tillage lands at Michaelmas, and not unfrequently at St. Thomas's day.

This county, Mr. Pitt observed, with few exceptions, might be said to be occupied by tenants at will. The few leases that are granted, are for the term of either seven, fourteen, or twenty-one years.

FARM-HOUSES AND COTTAGES.

The former in this county are most inconveniently placed: instead of being in the middle of the occupation, they have been too frequently pent up in villages, and are consequently either on one side of the farm, or totally detached from it. In a state of civilized society, the occupier being placed in the middle of his farm, has many advantages over the straggling system. For some years since, a few farm-houses properly placed, are to be found under the denomination of *lodges*, and some of these commodious and convenient enough, though a great many, as well as the out-buildings, were covered with thatch, which in hot, dry, or windy weather, are much exposed to the danger of conflagration. The farm-houses in general are built either of stone or brick, and covered with slate or straw. The barns are very large in proportion to the farm, which has been owing to the practice of housing as much of the crop as possible; and they are either built wholly of stone, and clay used as a cement, or partly of stone wall, on which a house framed of wood (generally oak) is erected, and plastered over the sides with clay. The byres, stables, &c. are generally built of stone, and covered in the same manner as the barns.

In a county where so little attention has been paid to farm-houses, cottages have not been an object of much regard; accordingly we find these crowded amongst the former in villages, and built with the same or inferior materials. In the open parishes in the county, it has been usual to find a great number of tenements constructed with mud, and covered with thatch.

To the credit of the late Duke of Grafton, he

never made cottages an object of revenue, he only expected that in the general account they should repair and support one another; and his cottages were accordingly let from twenty to twenty-five shillings per annum. Other cottages at that time let at thirty-five and forty shillings.

Lady Carberry's cottages at Lamport, have long been noticed as both comfortable and ornamental. The old cottages seem to have had very little design as to convenience or comfort; shelter from the weather, and room to sit or sleep in, in rather a promiscuous manner, seem to have been the only objects in view. By the beneficence of Lady Carberry, nine cottages in Lamport were furnished with land and cows. The cottagers, like the farmers, gave a full price for land, and the building of cottages in general, if fairly reckoned, has been deemed a good speculation, as by increasing the comforts of the poor, the poor-rates cannot be otherwise than lessened.

CATTLE.

These may be divided into two classes: those bred in the county, and those purchased from distant parts. The cattle bred in the county are those of the long-horned breed. Of those brought from distant parts, the Holderness are chiefly used for the dairy: but for fatting, every sort is bought in at one time or another: Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hereford, Pembroke, Devons, North Wales, Scots and Irish, are occasionally met with at the different fairs. The sheep of this county, are the common-field sheep, the ancient pasture sheep, and the sheep improved by crossing with the new Leicester breed, from Dishley. Horses are bred in this county chiefly for draught at the cart or plough, and mostly of the strong black breed; but the number bred being an insufficient supply, some are bought in from the counties of Derby, Leicester, and York, generally at two or three years old. Blood-horses used to be reared here, but experience proved that those animals, however valuable they might be to gentlemen, are unprofitable to the farmer,

because the least blemish renders them unsaleable. And even if they did not meet with any accident, it was necessary to keep them many years on the farm before they could be sent to market.

The breed of hogs here is a mixture between the Berkshire and the China, or Tonquin: the former giving size and weight, and the latter having little offal.

IMPLEMENTS.

The waggons, carts, harrows, rollers, &c. used here in husbandry, have nothing particularly singular in them, either to condemn or approve. Their form and figure are somewhat different from those in other counties; but it is generally in those particulars that may be justly termed non-essential, and they are commonly well enough adapted to the uses for which they are intended.

ENCLOSURES, FENCES, &c.

The most general mode of enclosing, is with post and rail, and planting white-thorn quickset. Some fences have been formed by raising mounds, or banks of earth, on each side the quicksets, instead of post and rail. Some instances of stone fencing also remain, upon a considerable scale, at Brixworth and other places. A little mud scraped from the highways has been used as mortar. The gates have nothing particular; they are made of such timber or wood as can be conveniently procured. The benefit of enclosures in this county has been generally admitted.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

There are few districts that can boast of a greater number of handsome well-built stone bridges; every brook and rivulet is made passable by means of a stone arch; and the bridges on the larger rivers do credit to the public spirit of the inhabitants. It is to be regretted, that so much cannot be said of the roads in every part of the county. Still they have been considerably improved, and bid fair in a short period to leave no ground for future complaint, especially since

the practice of breaking the stones has been adopted, instead of laying them on the road snearly in the same state in which they were taken from the quarry.

WASTES.

The improvements in this county may be estimated from what has been formerly waste, and what is at present enclosed. Some of the hill land, near Daventry, was only sheep-walk for a considerable period, to which may be added the common of Stoke Bruern, &c. though the whole, exclusive of Peterborough Fen, and the common-field pastures, fell short of 1000 acres. The great Peterborough Fen was a tract of fine level land, consisting of between six and seven thousand acres, of a soil perhaps equal to any in Great Britain, and capable of the highest cultivation. Its site is between Peterborough and Crowland, towards the north-east bounds of the county. Thirty-two parishes or townships have enjoyed the right of pasturage within what has been called the soke of Peterborough; nevertheless, the advantages necessarily resulting from a division of this common land are so obvious, as to need no illustration. The enclosed pastures are rich in produce, and the meadows equally so: very good crops of grain and great ones of beans and hemp, give sufficient proofs of natural fertility. This large tract of land, as well as the extensive districts of fen land adjoining, in the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, were doubtless originally formed by the sediment of the neighbouring rivers of Ouse, Nen, and Welland, in the immense lapse of time that passed between the formation of the earth's surface upon the present system. In fact, it has been matter of considerable surprise, that Peterborough Fen should have remained so long undivided and uncultivated.

WOODLANDS AND FORESTS.

Of the forests, the principa lis Rockingham, situated in the northern part of the county, and extending nearly twenty miles in the same direction. The two large forests of Whittlewood and Salcey, lie to-

wards the southern border. There are two chases; Geddington and Yardley; the former was once a part of Rockingham forest; but the ancestors of the Montague family obtained permission from the crown to disforest it, and convert it into a chase. Yardley-chase was once a part of Salcey forest; but this has also been disforested. *Purlieu* woods, extensive and numerous here, are those situated in the vicinity of the forests, and once formed part of them, but are no longer subject to any of the regulations of forest woods. The underwood in the forests and chases principally consists of black and white thorn, ash, sallow, maple, and a small proportion of hazel. The forest of Salcey is situated near the south-eastern border of the county, where it joins Buckinghamshire. Its limits were extended by King John, and in 1639 Charles the First threatened to enlarge it; but this oppressive measure being extended to several other forests, was rendered ineffectual by an act of Parliament in 1641, which confined all the Royal forests to their reputed limits in the twentieth year of the preceding reign.

In the 17th of Charles II. the forests of Salcey and Whittlewood were settled on Queen Catherine for life, as part of her jointure, reserving all the timber trees and saplings for the use of the crown. In the 25th year of the same reign, the several coppices, woods, underwoods, and woodlands in these forests, were granted to Henry Earl of Arlington for the term of his life, which at length devolved to the family of Grafton. The number of deer kept in this forest of Salcey, is about one thousand of all sorts; and the number killed annually is about twenty-eight brace of bucks and twenty-four of does, some of which are distributed to his Majesty's household, to the verderers, and other officers. The forest of Whittlewood, though principally belonging to the county of Northampton, extends into the adjoining counties of Oxford and Buckingham, and is part of the honour of Grafton. The number of deer killed annually is about

one hundred and thirty-eight bucks and ten does, one year with another. The value of the timber to the crown is considerable.

MINERALS.

The county of Northampton does not produce any coal, but common clay is found and used for making of brick and tile in various parts. Limestone is in great quantity, and raised for various purposes, either for mortar or manure; for building fence walls for courts, yards, and sometimes for enclosures and repairing roads. The principal lime works are at Duston and Kingsthorpe, besides public kilns at Moulton, Hardwick, and Blisworth, and private ones kept by farmers. Plenty of friable marl was found in executing the tunnels of the Grand Junction Canal at Braunston and Blisworth.

Freestone for building is raised at Brackley and Kingsthorpe, near Northampton, and many other places. Slate, or schistus, has been dug in considerable quantities near Colly Weston, and used for covering buildings. Dr. Watson, the late Bishop of Llandaff, observed, "Some of our old buildings at Cambridge are covered with a whitish kind of slate, dug up at Colly Weston, in Northamptonshire. This slate, in its component parts a calcareous earth, is very similar to the Barnack stone of which Peterborough cathedral and part of king's chapel in Cambridge, are built. This Colly Weston slate imbibes more water, and retains it longer than Westmoreland slate does; but it does not imbibe half so much as a common tile, nor retain it for a quarter of the time."

The manner of its being formed into slate deserves notice: large blocks are dug up in autumn, and being placed in a position different from what they had in the quarry, the rain insinuates itself between the layers of which the stone is composed; and in frosty weather the water swelling as it becomes ice, splits the block of stone into plates of a proper thickness. There is a stone of a calcareous nature called *clunch*, in this neighbourhood; it is soft, and easily wrought,

and when properly placed in a building, is very durable; but if the position of the stone in the building be different from what it was in the quarry, that is, if the side of the stone which in the quarry was parallel to the horizon, be either perpendicular or inclined to it in the building, it soon cracks, and moulders away. Good freestone was several years ago discovered upon the Laxton estate, belonging to Lady Carberry, in the fissures of which was found a good permanent paint, said to be useful in painting and preserving gates, posts, pales, or any timber work, exposed to the weather.

MANUFACTURES.

The principal in this county are shoes, bone-lace, and woollen stuffs, tammies, callimancoes, and everlastings. In Northampton and some of the neighbouring villages, upwards of 1000 hands have been employed during the late war in making shoes for the army and navy, and the shops in London. About 7 or 8000 pairs have also been manufactured weekly in the time of peace. The wages of journeymen are excessively low.

In Wellingborough, and its vicinity, nearly ten thousand persons, mostly young women and boys, have been employed at lace-making; but this branch has undergone a considerable decline, as has also the woollen manufactory at Kettering and in its neighbourhood: this is the case likewise at Rothwell, Desborough, &c. Considerable quantities of whips have been manufactured at Daventry by two masters. There is also another manufactory for silk stockings, but which has likewise experienced a change with the times.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Sixteen ounces to the pound, and one hundred and twelve pounds to the hundred, is universal throughout the county; but measures are very irregular, though many attempts have been made to render the Winchester bushel general. These attempts have not been attended with that success they so well deserved;

and as the laws now in existence are of ancient date, they are by many considered as absolute; and it is well worthy of the legislature to amend and strengthen them, and render them effectual throughout the kingdom. Though the power of the law is known, Mr. Pitt thought that a few examples were wanting on the spot, to stamp on the offenders the knowledge of doing wrong. This, he conceived, might be done by employing a few persons in each county as market-surveyors, who should lodge informations. The name of an informer is generally deemed odious; but in this case, a person regularly appointed would not be more so than an exciseman, being equally authorized to put the law in execution, and to prevent numerous abuses and acts of extortion on the part of millers, corn-factors, or jobbers.

EMINENT AND LEARNED MEN.

Lewis Atterbury, a divine, born at Milton, 1631, died 1693—Thomas Britton, the well known musical small-coal man, died 1714—Mrs. Esther Chapone, an elegant poetess and moral writer, born 1726, died 1801—Henry Chichely, Archbishop, founder of All Souls College, Oxford, died 1443—John Dryden, the celebrated poet, born 1631, died 1700—Thomas Fuller, born 1608, died 1661—Dr. John Gill, born 1697, died 1771—James Harrington, born 1611, died 1677—James Hervey, born 1714, died 1758—Dr. William Paley, born 1743, died 1805—Daniel Whitby, born 1638, died 1725—Leonard Welsted, born 1689, died 1749—Dr. John Wilkins, born 1614, died 1672—Sir Ralph Winwood, born 1655, died 1617.

The Northampton Mercury, a weekly paper, published every Saturday, is the only one published in this county.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF

THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

Journey from Peterborough to Duddington, through Wandsford.

PETERBOROUGH, 77 miles north of London, is situated on the river Nen, over which it has a bridge, which was thoroughly repaired in 1790. About the same period an act of parliament was obtained for paving and lighting the place; and since that time considerable improvements have been made in its general appearance; the houses have been modernized, and they are in general well built. Its streets are regular, and the market-place is a handsome and spacious square. Here are two churches, the cathedral and a parish church. Peterborough was originally called *Medenhampstead*, then *Burgh*, and afterwards from its wealth, splendour, and privileges of its monastery, it obtained the name of *Gilden Burgh*, or the Golden City. In reference, however, to the saint to whom its monastery was dedicated, this name was afterwards exchanged for Peterburgh; it is a place of great antiquity, and is famous for its cathedral. The monastery was founded by Peada, eldest son of Penda, king of the Mercians, in the year 655, in the foundation of which he laid such stones that eight yoke of oxen could scarcely draw one of them. In the time of Abbot Hedda, the glory and magnificence of this noble monastery was totally destroyed by fire, and continued burning fifteen days; and Abbot Hedda and his monks were cruelly slain by Earl Hubba. The monastery lay in ruins near 100 years; but in the reign of King Edgar it was rebuilt, and finished in the year 970. The stone for this admired structure was brought from Barnack, near Stamford. This astonishing edifice was singularly famous for a stately front, a curious altar-

piece, and a beautiful cloister. The first of the three still remains, supported by three remarkable high arches. This cathedral suffered much in the year 1643, by the Reformers. Among the devastations committed was the destruction of the admired and beautiful windows, of exquisite workmanship, which were adorned with historical passages of scripture and ecclesiastical history; but the cloister windows were the most admired for their curious art and singular variety. In this state of ruin and desolation it continued for the space of eight years, when the damages which it had sustained were in some measure repaired, its ornaments replaced, and so much of the building restored as was necessary for the performance of divine service. In 1660 the exiled dean, Dr. Cosin, returned, and assumed his right of government; and the service of the church was again continued, and a considerable part of its alienated lands recovered.

The style of architecture prevailing in this building is the Norman, of which the circular arch and large column form the leading characteristics. This, in the present instance, as well as in others, has erroneously obtained the denomination of Saxon, although no part of the present cathedral appears to have been erected antecedent to the year 1118, at which time the monastery was destroyed by fire. The plan corresponds with that of most other cathedrals; and consists of a nave, with side aisles, a transept, a choir, terminating at the east end semicircularly, and surrounded with a continuation of the side aisles of the nave, the whole terminated at the east by what is styled the New Building. In the centre is a tower, rising from the four arches by which the several parts of the structure are connected together. The west front is formed by a portico or porch of three lofty arches, in the centre of which is a small chapel. The following are the dimensions of the building: the length of the whole cathedral externally, including the buttresses, is 471 feet; of the nave, from the west door to the entrance into the choir 267; of the choir 117; and from the

altar to the choir to the east window 38; making in the whole 422 feet. The length of the transept from north to south is 180 feet; the height of the nave from the floor to the ceiling is 81 feet; of the central tower, from the floor to the summit, 135; whilst its whole height externally is 150 feet. The breadth of the nave from the north wall to the south is 78 feet, and the breadth of the west front 156 feet.

The different periods of erection of these parts of the building may be assigned as follow: the choir with its aisles, from the circular extremity at the east to the commencement of the transept on the west, was begun in the year 1118, and completed in 1143: the transept was erected between the years 1155 and 1177; and between the years 1177 and 1193 the nave, with its aisles, were completed as far as the termination of the pillars, which divide the nave and side ailes on the west. About the year 1288 a farther addition was made, when the space between the extreme pillar, and the west door of entrance was finished, forming a projection on each side of the western extremity, and terminated by two towers.

When Henry the Eighth seized on the temporalities, and securalized this convent, he erected it into a bishopric, and ordered the abbey church to be converted into a cathedral; and the government of it entrusted to a bishop, a dean, and six prebendaries, whose jurisdiction extended over the city of Peterborough and the county of Northampton. It was ordained at the same time that the archdeacon of Northampton, who, together with the county, had hitherto been subject to the authority of the Bishop of Lincoln, should in future be subordinate to the jurisdiction of the new bishop. Thus was this great monastery dissolved, and its establishment changed, after having been governed, from its foundation, by a succession of forty-five abbots, who had summons to parliament as early as the reign of Henry the Third; and its revenues, during this period, had increased to the annual sum of 1,721*l.* Upon the erection of the episcopal

see, these revenues were divided into three parts, two of which were afterwards greatly impaired. One the king reserved for himself, another was assigned to the see for the maintenance of a bishop, and the third formed the endowment of the dean and chapter.

This monastery is remarkable for the interment of two unfortunate queens, viz. Catherine of Spain, first wife of King Henry the Eighth, and Mary Queen of Scots; the former was interred in the year 1535, in the church of the monastery, between two pillars, on the north side of the choir, near the altar. Her hearse was covered with a black velvet pall, crossed with a white cloth of silver; this was afterwards exchanged for one of inferior value, which, with the escutcheons fixed to it, were taken away during the rebellion, in the year 1643.

In the year 1587, the funeral of Mary Queen of Scots was solemnized here: the body of the queen was brought from Fotheringhay Castle, where she was beheaded, and was committed, on the 31st of July, to a vault prepared for it, on the south side of the choir, close to the bishop's throne, which was immediately closed, without the performance of any religious service: a rich hearse was erected, however, near the grave, and the choir and church were hung with black; and the performance of the funeral service took place on the following afternoon, and was attended by thousands of spectators, and many of the nobility, the heralds, and other officers of the crown. Those of the kingdom of Scotland, who had thus far beheld the fate of their queen, here stopped and bade an adieu to her remains for the last time; but they indignantly refused either to enter the church, or to be present at the last ceremonies. The service was read by the dean, and a sermon was preached by the Bishop of Lincoln, who steering between a fear of Protestanism on one hand, and a respect due to deceased Popery on the other, treated only of the miseries annexed to the vale of mortality; and, in

reference to the subject before him, made the following cautious remarks:

"Let us give thanks for the happy dissolution of the high and mighty Princess Mary, late Queen of Scotland, and Dowager of France, of whose life and death at this time I have not much to say, because I was not acquainted with the one, neither was I present at the other. I will not enter into judgment further, but because it hath been signified unto me, that she trusted to be saved by the blood of Christ, we must hope well of her salvation; for, as father Luther was wont to say, many one that liveth a Papist dieth a Protestant."

The body of the queen did not, however, rest long in its grave; for twenty-five years afterwards King James, as a duty owing to the remains of his mother, ordered the translation of her body to Westminster, which was accordingly done in the year 1612. The epitaph which was suspended on the wall over the vault, was afterwards taken down and cast out of the church.

On the west of the cathedral is the Close, which is nearly surrounded by ancient monastic buildings; on the south side is a range of architecture, presenting several fine and interesting parts; in the centre of which is a large tower gateway, communicating with the bishop's palace. At the west end is the entrance gateway, from the town; and to the north is the deanery, the entrance to which is through a very rich and highly ornamented gateway. South of the cathedral was a large cloister, 138 by 131 feet, which has been almost wholly demolished.

Exclusive of the cathedral, Peterborough has only one church, which is dedicated to St. John; it is situated near the centre of the city, and contains a large altar-piece, painted by R. K. Porter; also a beautiful monumental tablet, with figures, by Flaxman, R. A.

The situation of the city of Peterborough is exceedingly pleasant, and the buildings, in general, are very neat, and the streets regular. Near the cathedral is a good market-house, over which are held the assizes and sessions for the hundred.

In the city is a good charity school, founded by Thomas Deacon, esq. who endowed it with a freehold estate of above one hundred and sixty pounds per annum. A very stately monument, of the Corinthian order, is erected on the south-east of the altar, in the cathedral church, sacred to the memory of that pious and benevolent man.

Mr. Wortley also, who was formerly one of the representatives of this city, gave a very good house, with extensive premises, as a work-house for the poor, who are chiefly employed in spinning of wool, which is sent to Norwich, and there manufactured. The maintenance of the poor, till within these few years, was very burthensome to the inhabitants, amounting annually to upwards of twelve hundred a-year, more than three shillings and sixpence in the pound; but since it has been farmed it does not exceed two shillings and threepence: and the person who farmed it, though formerly a pauper, by his industry gained a decent independence in 11 years.

Here is a plentiful market on Saturday, which is well stored with the best of meat, fish, and fowl, wild and tame, and at more reasonable prices than at many neighbouring markets. Fruit is, in general, plentiful and cheap.

There are two chartered fairs; the first by King Richard, upon the feast of St. Peter, for eight days, but now contracted to two, on the 10th and 11th of July, which is most noted for home-spun cloth, beasts, horses, wood, haberdashery, and toys: the second fair, chartered by King Henry the Sixth, is called Brigg Fair, holden on the 2nd and 3rd of October.

The manufactures here consist of all kinds of hosiery; but its export trade has arisen from large quantities of malt and corn sent down the river. Its imports are mostly coals, and groceries for the consumption of the inland country.

The river Nen, which here divides this county from Huntingdonshire, is navigable to Northampton, 42 miles above Peterborough. There is a bridge over

this river leading to the city, but it remains a doubt by whom the bridge should be kept up and repaired. It appears from history, that Abbot Godfrey, elected in the year 1299, built of his own free will the bridge leading to the city, in the fourth year of King Edward the Second. There was an inquisition made concerning the said bridge, which, being gone to decay, the question was how or by whom it should be repaired. To determine this there was a jury impannelled, six out of Northamptonshire, and six out of Huntingdonshire, who, upon examination, returned an ignoramus in the following manner:—'That there was none of right bound to repair or sustain the same;' but, the king and queen coming to Peterborough, the said bridge was repaired by Abbot Adam, for their passage into the city. The bridge has for many years been kept up by the feoffees, who, much to their credit, in the year 1790, undertook a thorough repair of the same. An act passed about the same time for the paving, lighting, and otherwise improving the city.

Peterborough is governed by a mayor, recorder, and six aldermen, with a common council chosen out of the principal inhabitants. Its jurisdiction, commonly called the Liberty or Soke of Peterborough, is somewhat particular, and extends over 32 towns and hamlets in the neighbourhood; in all which places the civil magistrates, appointed by commission from the king for that purpose, are invested with the same power as judges of assize, and accordingly hold in this city their quarterly sessions of the peace, oyer and terminer, and general gaol delivery, and hear and determine all criminal cases, of what nature or kind soever, within themselves.—It sends two members to parliament; the dean and chapter are lords of the manor, and appoint the returning officer. This city is entirely independent in the exercise of its elective franchise; the inhabitants, who pay scot and lot, and who are in number between four and five hundred, have all votes at elections for their members of the

legislative assembly. Peterborough gives the title of earl to the family of Mordaunt. This city first sent members to parliament in the year 1547, 1st Edward VI.

The city of Peterborough is situated on the northern side of the river Nen, eighty-one miles and three quarters from London, and contains 950 houses occupied by 4598 inhabitants.

The Great Peterborough Fen, situated about six miles to the north-east of Peterborough, is a tract of fine level land, containing between six and 7000 acres, of a soil equal, perhaps, to any in the kingdom, and capable of the highest cultivation; it is subject to the depasturage of the cattle, horses, and sheep, of the thirty-two parishes, comprising the Soke of Peterborough. The right of commonage is, however, considered at present to be scarcely of any value: but if this portion of land were converted into private property, and divided into farms of a proper size, great advantages, both of a public and private nature, would necessarily be the result.

William Paley, D.D. was born at Peterborough in July, and baptized, as appears from the register of the cathedral, August 30th, 1743. He was descended from an old and respectable family in Craven, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where his great-grandfather John, and his grandfather Thomas Paley, successively resided on a small patrimonial estate at Langcliffe, in the parish of Giggleswick.

Young Paley was educated under his father's eye. "The dawn of youth is indeed an era in the history of every man's mind and character, which is only to be omitted by the biographer, when particulars are not to be obtained;" more especially when, as in the present instance, the progress of a superior mind towards maturity deserves to be distinctly traced. At school he soon surpassed his early class-fellows, by the exercise of greater abilities united to a more studious disposition than usually belongs to boys of that age; and, by successive promotions from one class to another, at length obtained pre-eminence over all. He

did not, however, at this time distinguish himself by any sort of compositions, even as school exercises, but was considered a very fair, though by no means an accomplished classical scholar. He was even then more attentive to things than to words, and ardent in the pursuit of knowledge of every kind. He was curious in making enquiries about mechanism, whenever he had an opportunity of conversing with any workmen, or others capable of affording him satisfactory information. In his mind he was uncommonly active; in his body quite the reverse. He was a bad horseman, and incapable of those exertions which required adroitness in the use of his hands or feet. He consequently never engaged in the ordinary sports of schoolboys; but he was fond of angling, an amusement in which he did not then excel, though his attachment to it seems to have continued through life.

Soon after he had completed his fifteenth year, young Paley accompanied his father to Cambridge for the purpose of admission, and was admitted, November 16, 1758, a sizar of Christ's college; a college otherwise highly respectable from the members who had done it honour, but sufficiently immortalized by the illustrious name of Milton alone.

Soon after his return to Craven, as the classics alone were taught at Giggleswick school, he went for mathematical instruction to Mr. William Howarth, a teacher of some eminence at Dishforth, near Topcliffe, about three miles from Ripon, under whose care he laid an excellent foundation of knowledge in algebra and geometry. During his residence at this place, the attention of the whole neighbourhood was taken up by the discovery of a human skeleton at Knaresborough, which accidentally led to unfold the circumstance of a murder, committed there fourteen years before. Stimulated by curiosity, he attended the county assizes at York, and was present in the court, August 3d, 1759, when Eugene Aram, a man of extraordinary learning and acuteness, was tried for the murder of Daniel Clark, and convicted on the evidence of Richard

Houseman, an accomplice, and of his own wife. The evidence brought forward on this occasion, and the ingenious defence of the prisoner, seem to have made a forcible impression on young Paley's mind. When he returned home, a few weeks after this, before his departure to college, he entertained and astonished all around him, by his spirited harangues and judicious remarks on this important trial. Even then, young as he was, he paid particular attention to cases of law, and in speaking of them was singularly fluent and nervous in his language. He seems, indeed, to have attributed the conviction of the prisoner in a great measure to the ingenuity of his defence; for many years after, when he was conversing with a few friends about the lives of some obscure and undeserving persons having been inserted in the Biographia Britannica, and one of the party exclaimed—"Eugene Aram, for instance!" "Nay," replied he, "a man that has been hanged has some pretension to notoriety, and especially a man who has got himself hanged by his own cleverness, which Eugene Aram certainly did."

In October, 1759, he became a resident member of Christ's college. On the 5th of December he was appointed to one of the scholarships founded by Mr. Carr, and appropriated to students from Giggleswick school. On the following day he was elected a scholar on the foundation of his college, and appointed to the exhibition founded by Sir Walter Mildmay. And in addition to these emoluments, he was elected, May 26, 1761, to the scholarship founded by Mr. Buntry, one of the college tenants.

Dr. Thomas, dean of Ely, was at that time master of Christ's college; Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Backhouse were the tutors. Mr. Shepherd, who gave lectures in algebra, geometry, and the different branches of natural philosophy, being soon convinced of Mr. Paley's superior attainments, (for he came to college a better mathematician than many are when they leave it,) excused him from attending his college lectures with students of his own year; but required his

attendance at those public lectures which he afterwards gave as Plumian professor; and occasionally proposed mathematical questions for his solution. Mr. Paley, during this time, regularly attended Mr. Backhouse's lectures in logic and metaphysics.

Being thus left so much to himself, he applied however most assiduously to those studies required by the university; in the pursuit of which he had frequent opportunity to show the concentration of mind which he possessed in an extraordinary degree. His room, (for he seldom locked his door either by night or day,) used to be the common rendezvous of the idle young men of his college; yet, notwithstanding all their noise and nonsense, he might be often seen in one corner, as composed and attentive to what he was reading, as if he had been alone. But as, besides the interruption which such loungers must at times have given him, he was remarkable for indulging himself in bed till a very late hour in the morning, and for being much in company after dinner, at tea, and at a coffee-house at nine o'clock in the evening, it is probable that he was more indebted to observation and reflection than to books for the general improvement of his mind.

In the year 1705, during one of his visits to Cambridge, Dr. Paley, in the course of a conversation on the subject, gave the following account of the early part of his own academical life, and it is here given, on the authority and in the very words of a gentleman who was present at the time, as a striking instance of the peculiar frankness with which he was in the habit of relating the adventures of his youth.

" I spent the first two years of my under-graduateship happily but unprofitably. I was constantly in society, where we were not immoral, but idle and rather expensive. At the commencement of my third year, however, after having left the usual party at rather a late hour in the evening, I was awakened at five in the morning by one of my companions, who stood at my bed-side and said—' Paley, I have been

thinking what a d****'d fool you are. I could do nothing, probably, were I to try, and can afford the life I lead: you could do every thing, and cannot afford it. I have had no sleep during the whole night on account of these reflections, and am now come solemnly to inform you, that if you persist in your indolence, I must renounce your society.' "

" I was so struck"—Dr. Paley continued—" with the visit and the visitor, that I lay in bed great part of the day, and formed my plan. I ordered my bedmaker to prepare my fire every evening, in order that it might be lighted by myself. I arose at five, read during the whole of the day, except such hours as chapel and hall required, allotting to each portion of time it's peculiar branch of study; and just before the closing of the gates (nine o'clock), I went to a neighbouring coffee-house, where I constantly regaled upon a mutton chop and a dose of milk punch. And thus on taking my bachelor's degree, I became senior wrangler."

Thus fortunately was Dr. Paley roused to a full exertion of his faculties, before his habits were completely formed; and to this singular adventure may, perhaps, be attributed, not only his successful labours, as a college tutor, but the invaluable productions of his pen.

Mr. Paley, being generally careless about his dress, and sometimes even remarkably inattentive to it, attracted more than common notice, when he appeared in the public schools to keep his first act, with his hair full dressed, and in a deep ruffled shirt and new silk stockings; which aided by his gestures, his action, and his whole manner, when earnestly engaged in the debate, excited no small mirth in the spectators. This was his first appearance before the university as a disputant, and he acquitted himself with such unwonted ability, that the schools were afterwards invariably crowded, whenever he was expected to dispute.

On the 10th of October, 1762, Mr. Jebb, fellow of

Peterhouse, and Mr. Watson, fellow and tutor of Trinity college, were invested with the office of moderators for the first time: an office, the duties of which, together or separately, they afterwards repeatedly discharged with the highest celebrity. Soon after this appointment, Mr. Watson sent Mr. Paley an act. He was prepared with a mathematical question, and referring to Johnson's Questiones Philosophicæ, a book then common in the university, in which the subjects usually disputed upon in the schools, and the names of the authors who had written on each side, were contained, he fixed upon two others, as not having been proposed to his knowledge before: the one against capital punishments, the other against the eternity of hell torments. As soon as it was rumoured amongst the heads of the university, that Mr. Paley, whose abilities were well known, had proposed such a question, the master of his college was desired to interfere and put a stop to it. Dr. Thomas consequently summoned him to the lodge, and objected, in strong terms, to both his questions, but insisted upon his relinquishing the last. Mr. Paley immediately went to the moderator, and acquainted him with this peremptory command. Mr. Watson was indignant that "the heads of colleges should interfere in a matter, which belonged solely," as he said, "to him; for he was the judge of the propriety or impropriety of the questions sent to him." "Are you, Sir," continued he, "independent of your college? if you are, these shall be the questions for your act." Mr. Paley told him that "he should be sorry to offend the college; and therefore wished to change the last question." "Very well," replied the moderator, "the best way then to satisfy the scruples of these gentlemen, will be for you to defend the eternity of hell torments;" which, changing his thesis to the affirmative, he actually did.

Mr. Paley kept this act with uncommon credit. Mr. Frere of Caius college, a young gentleman of singular fame as a disputant, particularly on metaphysical

or moral subjects, confident in his own abilities, and fluent in speaking Latin, was his first opponent, and the strenuous exertions of such an adversary gave full scope to the display of his extraordinary talents. Indeed he always acquitted himself with great ability in his several disputations, either as a respondent or opponent, and received the highest compliments from the different moderators under whom he kept.

Nor did Mr. Paley disappoint the general expectation of the university, when he took his degree of bachelor of arts, in January 1763, but was senior wrangler of the year. In the senate-house, as in the schools, Mr. Frere was his most formidable competitor, and gained the second honours. Mr. Paley was probably more indebted for the first, to the quickness and strength of his conceptions, and to a promptitude of delivery, in which he always excelled, than to the superior extent of his mathematical acquirements.

Soon after taking his bachelor's degree, Mr. Paley was engaged, on the recommedation of Mr. Shepherd, as second assistant in a great academy at Greenwich, kept by Mr. Bracken, and chiefly resorted to by young men intended for the army and navy, where his department of teaching was in the Latin language. His classical were indeed far inferior to his mathematical attainments, but with his strong talents, it may be readily supposed, that, when daily employed in reading and teaching the best authors, he soon supplied any former deficiency. His leisure hours were frequently occupied in rambling about the metropolis, where a variety of new and interesting objects engaged his notice, and gave full scope of observation to his active mind.

On him nothing was lost, and, as he was equally ardent in the pursuit of knowledge or of recreation, his residence at Greenwich, at this important period of his life, must have been highly advantageous to him. He certainly enjoyed a good play very much, and used frequently to attend the theatres, particularly Drury-lane, when Mr. Garrick, returning from the

continent, re-appeated upon the stage. He generally went into the pit, and seated himself as near to the orchestra as he could. But his chief amusement in London seemed to arise from attending the different courts of justice, the Old Bailey in particular: and there, from his frequent attendance, and sagacity of observation, he acquired a clear and accurate knowledge of the criminal law. It is interesting, at all times, to trace the progress of a favourite inclination in youth, when leading to any laudable pursuit; more especially in a man like Mr. Paley. The proceedings in the courts at Lancaster had made a forcible impression on his mind; and the trial of Eugene Aram, no doubt, added strength to a propensity, in which his frequent visits to the metropolis, at this time, enabled him to indulge. In the midst of all this, he was perfectly satisfied with his lot, and found himself so happy in his situation at Greenwich, that he has been often heard to say, " the rank of first assistant in the academy was then the highest object of his ambition."

In 1765, Mr. Paley became a candidate for one of the prizes given annually by the representatives of the University of Cambridge to senior bachelors, the authors of the two best dissertations in Latin prose. The subject proposed was a comparison between the Stoic and Epicurean philosophy, with respect to the influence of each on the morals of a people. Mr. Paley, at all times averse to useless austerity, and a lover of rational enjoyment, naturally took the Epicurean side. His dissertation, first composed in English, and afterward translated by himself into Latin, though far from elegant in point of style, is fraught with sound perspicuous reasoning, and strong manly sense. Evincing at once extensive reading, and a maturity of reflection far beyond his years, this early performance discovers no slight presages of his future eminence, and many characteristic features of his mind. In discussing the opposite characters of these rival systems of philosophy, he strenuously vindicates Epicurus against those calumnies, with which the ig-

norance or misrepresentation of his opponents have unjustly charged him, and maintains that his doctrines were favourable to none but rational pleasures, and the true happiness of mankind. The disciples of Zeno, on the other hand, he contends, whilst affecting an elevation of virtue inconsistent with human nature, too often, in their practice, descended to the most flagitious of crimes.

This was perhaps a singular instance of a prize-dissertation in Latin, being sent up to the judges, with long notes in English. The reasons alleged for this, in a short preface, were the obscurity of a dead language, and the difficulty of ascertaining the exact meaning of words and phrases. This circumstance, however, though thus explained, had nearly proved fatal to its success. For when the merits of the several competitors came to be discussed by the vice-chancellor and heads of colleges, by whom the prizes are awarded; one of the judges strongly objected to the essay on this very account, observing that "he supposed the author had been assisted by his father, some country clergyman, who having forgotten his Latin, had written the notes in English." Dr. Powell, master of St. John's college, spoke warmly in its favour, insisting that "it contained more matter than was to be found in all the others: that it would be unfair to reject such a dissertation merely on suspicion; since the notes were applicable to the subject, and showed the author to be a young man of the most promising abilities and extensive reading." This opinion seems to have been decisive, in turning the balance in Mr. Paley's favour, to whom the first prize was accordingly adjudged.

As soon as he was informed of his success, he wrote to Mr. Stoddart the following characteristic letter, without either date or name:—"Io triumphe! Chamberlayne is second."—Mr. Chamberlayne was a fellow of King's college, was reckoned one of the best classical scholars of that society, and had gained the first prize, as middle bachelor, in the preceding year.

Being ordained a deacon at the proper age, he engaged himself as curate to Dr. Hinchliffe, then vicar of Greenwich, and afterwards Bishop of Peterborough. Soon after this, he left the academy in consequence of a disagreement with Mr. Bracken, regarding the distribution of some money sent by the parents of the pupils, as presents to the different assistants; in which distribution he thought himself ill used. He continued, however, still to officiate in the church of Greenwich.

Mr. Paley was elected a fellow on the foundation of Christ's college, June 24th, 1766, an appointment worth about one hundred pounds a year, at that time. In consequence of this, he returned to a residence in the university, took his degree of master of arts, and engaged in the business of private tuition. He was afterwards engaged as an assistant in the public tuition of his college: and, at the general ordination for the diocese of London, holden, at St. James's chapel, December 21st, 1767, was ordained a priest by Bishop Terrick.

On the translation of Dr. Cornwallis, from the see of Litchfield to the primacy, in August 1768, Mr. Blackhouse, who had been for many years his chaplain, resigned his situation as tutor of Christ's college. Dr. Shepherd now held the tuition alone; but transferred the active duties of his station to his assistants, Mr. Paley and Mr. Law. This latter gentleman, son of the master of Peterhouse, had distinguished himself as second wrangler, and first chancellor's medalist, in 1766. The talents and assiduity of these able scholars, aided by the plausibility of manners and powerful connexions of their superior, soon raised the celebrity of their college to an unprecedented height.

At the installation of the Duke of Grafton as chancellor of the university, at the commencement, July 1st, 1769, Mr. Grimstone, a fellow commoner of Christ's college, and pupil of Mr. Paley's, recited in the senate-house some English verses, written for the occasion by Mr. Law, in which the new Arch-

bishop of Canterbury, then present, was mentioned in very flattering terms. At the election of officers in the following October, Mr. Law was appointed moderator, and, December 18th, 1770, was elected a fellow of his college. Mr. Paley was at this time serving the office of taxor in the university, and was soon after appointed one of the Whitehall preachers, his name appearing for the first time, in the register of the royal chapel there, April 21, 1771.

Early in that year, Mr. Paley and Mr. Law, whose exertions and ability had contributed so much to the prosperity of Christ's college, were united with Dr. Shepherd in the tuition; their names first appearing in the admission-book on the 13th of March. As yet, however, they only shared one half of the emoluments between them, Dr. Shepherd retaining the other. But this being by no means adequate either to their merit or importance, they in the following year insisted upon a *trisection*, as Mr. Law called it, or equal division of the whole; with which the senior tutor, after some opposition, was obliged to comply.

Mr. Paley lectured on metaphysics, morals, and the Greek Testament, and, after he had been some years a tutor, on divinity; Mr. Law on the mathematics and natural philosophy. Mr. Paley was a most able and popular lecturer, excelling in the art of adapting himself to the understanding of his pupils, and elucidating the most abstruse points by a frequent and happy reference to the images of common life. It is a too common practice amongst lecturers, attending more to the subject of their discourse than the character of their audience, to make a formal harangue in their own manner, which, however learned and ingenious, is little suited to the capacities of youth, and therefore listened to with apathy or disgust. Mr. Paley, on the other hand, contrived to interest the minds of his pupils, and to render his lectures at once instructive and entertaining, by pur-

suing a very different plan; and his manner cannot be too much studied and admired.

His delivery was fluent, his language strong and perspicuous, though mixed sometimes with provincial, but expressive words and phrases, which, however, were purposely used, as uncommon and likely to be remembered. Whilst his similitudes and illustrations were apt and familiar, his general character was also strikingly impressive. He made it a principal object to excite the doubts and solicitude of his pupils, before he proceeded in the disquisition: for he soon discovered that it required more pains to make young minds perceive the difficulty than understand the solution, and that unless some curiosity was raised before he attempted to satisfy it, his labour would be lost. He usually commenced his lecture by questioning one of his pupils on some point in that of the preceding day, to remove any misapprehension of what he had already inculcated, and to fix the whole more firmly on their minds.

The Hyson Club, a society where the members met to drink tea and pass the evening in rational conversation, had been established at Cambridge, by the wranglers of 1757, when Dr. Waring gained the first, and Mr. Jebb the second honours of the year. Several of the highest characters in the university were already enrolled amongst its members, when Mr. Paley became an associate, soon after his establishment in the tuition of Christ's college. No particular subjects of discussion were proposed at their meetings, but accident, or the taste of individuals, naturally led to topics, in which literary men might fairly unbend themselves from severer pursuits. In a debate one evening, on the justice and expediency of making some alteration in the ecclesiastical constitution of this country, for the relief of tender consciences, Dr. Gordon, fellow of Emanuel college, and afterwards precentor of Lincoln, an avowed tory in religion and politics, when vehemently opposing the arguments of

Mr. Jebb, a strenuous supporter of all such improvements, exclaimed with his usual heat, "You mean, Sir, to impose upon us a new church government." "You are mistaken, Sir," said Mr. Paley, "Jebb only wants to ride his own horse, not to force you to get up behind him."

The elevation of Dr. Edmund Law to the see of Carlisle, naturally led to the promotion of his son, who, having obtained a prebendal stall in the cathedral of that diocese, and the living of Warkworth, resigned his engagements in the university, in June 1774. At this period the reputation of Christ's college had been raised to an unexampled pitch by the united exertions of the tutors; and it was no less distinguished by the number than by the opulence and rank of its students. Mr. Law was succeeded in his department by Mr. Parkinson, fellow of the college, who had been senior wrangler and Smith's prizeman in 1760. Mr. Paley continued at his post two years after the departure of his friend. In addition to his engagements as a public tutor, he had all along derived considerable emoluments from bestowing some hours daily on the instruction of private pupils.

The reputation which he had so deservedly acquired is said to have induced the late Earl Camden, on sending his son, the present earl, to the university, to offer Mr. Paley the situation of his private tutor, which other engagements led him to decline. Amongst the many high proofs of esteem and approbation which he might through life receive, this decisive testimony of the confidence of a great constitutional lawyer can by no means be considered the least; and as the acceptance of this offer might have led, by honourable patronage, to the highest clerical dignity, the refusal of it, shows that Mr. Paley then sought the advancements of his fortunes by perseverance in the regular duties of his profession alone.

He held, indeed, all those little arts of underhand

address, by which patronage and preferment are so frequently pursued, in supreme contempt. He was of a nature to *root*; for that was his own expressive term, afterwards much used in the university, to denote the sort of practice alluded to. He one day humorously proposed at some social meeting, that a certain cotemporary fellow of his college, at that time, distinguished for his elegant and engaging manners, and who has since attained no small eminence in the church of England should be appointed *professor of rooting.*

The Bishop of Carlisle, after providing for his son, made Mr. Paley the chief object of his patronage, and presented him to the rectory of Musgrove in Westmoreland, a living then worth about eighty pounds a year. He was inducted to this little benefice, May 28, 1775, and afterwards passed much of his leisure during the long vacation, between Rose Castle, and Mr. Law's prebendal house at Carlisle. In the autumn of this year he attached himself to Miss Jane Hewitt, a handsome and pleasing young lady of that city, to whom his suit was successfully preferred. He returned however to Cambridge at the usual time.

In 1776, a new edition of Bishop Law's Reflections on the Life and Character of Christ, originally published in the Considerations on the Theory of Religion, was given in a separate form at Cambridge, for the benefit of academical youth. To this treatise some brief Observations on the Character and Example of Christ were added, as a summary of its contents, with an Appendix on the Morality of the Gospel, both from Mr. Paley's pen.

Mr. Paley preached for the last time at Whitehall, April 21; his labours in the university terminated in the month of May, and, on June 6th he was married to Miss Hewitt, in the church of St. Mary's, Carlisle, where his friend Mr. Law performed the ceremony. On the 29th of the same month, he was succeeded in his fellowship by Mr. Majendie, late Bishop of

Chester; and retired into the diocese of Carlisle, leaving behind him amongst his friends and pupils, the well-earned sentiments of esteem and regret.

Striking as the contrast must appear between his situation in the university and amongst his present parishioners, he frequently observed, that at Musgrove he had passed some of the happiest days of his life. Satisfied with the small earnest of patronage, which he had thus received, no cares about his future prospects disturbed the serenity of his mind. The situation of this pleasant village, on the banks of the river Eden, allowed him to indulge himself frequently in angling, the favourite amusement of his youth. So partial indeed was he to a sport, which notwithstanding the opinion of honest Walton, can scarcely be reconciled to either reason or humanity, that he, at one time, kept a journal of his exploits, and had afterwards his portrait taken with his rod and line.

At this time Mr. Paley, as he afterwards frequently declared, found himself, notwithstanding his habits of observation and enquiry, very deficient in that practical knowledge, which can only be obtained from an active intercourse with the mass of mankind. Being induced to undertake the management of a small farm, as a source at once of profit and of occupation, he calculated too little on his own want of acquaintance with husbandry, and the different habits of his earlier life. "I soon found," said he, when alluding to the failure of his project, "that this would never do: I was a bad farmer, and almost invariably lost."

The liberality of his benefactor, however, was not confined to a single gift. Before the close of the same year, December 2, 1776, he was inducted into the vicarage of Dalston in Cumberland, in the neighbourhood of Rose Castle, worth ninety pounds per annum. In 1777, Mr. Law was promoted to the archdeaconry of Carlisle, and, from the age and infirmities of his father, had now the chief management of all the affairs of the diocese, as well as a leading influence with the dean and chapter.

On the 15th of July, 1777, Mr. Paley preached at the visitation of the bishop, in the cathedral church of Carlisle, a discourse, which he afterwards published with the title of "Caution recommended in the use and application of Scripture language."

On the 5th of September he resigned the rectory of Musgrove, and, on the 10th of the same month, was inducted to the more valuable vicarage of Appleby, estimated at about two hundred pounds a year; between which place and Dalston he now divided his time, residing alternately six months at each.

On the 16th of June, 1780, he was installed a prebendary of the fourth stall in the cathedral of Carlisle, worth about four hundred pounds per annum, and thus became the coadjutor of his friend Mr. Law in the chapter.

Mr. Paley, as chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle, preached an admonitory sermon, at the general ordination holden by his lordship at Rose Castle, on the 29th of July, 1781.

Mr. Yates died soon after this, in the eighty-first year of his age; on which occasion Mr. Paley wrote the just and striking eulogy, inscribed on the marble monument erected to this eminent teacher's memory in Appleby church. His own connection with that place terminated in the following year, when, in consequence of Mr. Law's promotion to an Irish bishopric, he was appointed Archdeacon of Carlisle, and divided his future residence between Dalston and his prebendal house.

He was installed in his new dignity, August 5th, 1782. The archdeaconry is, in fact, a mere sinecure, the duties usually attached to that office being here performed by the chancellor, whose power extends through the whole diocese. The rectory of Great Salkeld, worth one hundred and twenty pounds per annum, is always annexed to the archdeaconry, and has been so from the foundation of the see.

Immediately after this, Mr. Paley went with his friend to Dublin, where, September 21, he preached

the sermon in the Castle chapel, at his consecration to the bishopric of Clonfert and Kilmacdaugh; and afterwards accompanied him to his episcopal residence, on the great river Shannon in Galway, one of the least civilized portions of the island. In the course of his journey he was no idle observer, as his remarks after his return evinced, of the peculiar wretchedness of the lower Irish, and of that ingenuity in eluding taxes, at once injudicious and oppressive, by which that poor neglected people were then, if not even now, unhappily distinguished.

A report has been long in circulation, that Mr. Paley, being appointed to preach before the university of Cambridge, on the day when Mr. Pitt, after his elevation to the premiership in 1784, made his first appearance at St. Mary's, chose this singular but appropriate text—"There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves and two small fishes, but what are *they* among so many?" John vi. 9. A lady who had seen this story in a newspaper, once asked the facetious divine if it was true. "Why no, madam," replied he, "I certainly never preached such a sermon; I was not at Cambridge at the time; but I remember that, one day, when I was riding out with a friend in the neighbourhood of Carlisle, and we were talking about the bustle and confusion which Mr. Pitt's appearance would then cause in the university, I said, that if I had been there, and asked to preach on the occasion I would have taken that passage for my text."

Whilst others were *rooting* for preferment, Mr. Paley was engaged in the composition of an important work, the general outlines of which had been delivered to his pupils at Christ's college. The Bishop of Clonfert, to whom the merit of his friend's lectures was well known, and who justly thought that those on morals, in particular, might be expanded into a most useful treatise for public instruction, had strenuously urged their publication in an improved form. Mr. Paley at first suggested, as an objection, the little

attention usually paid to such subjects, and the risk of publishing a book which might not sell: but when he found himself in possession of a competent income from his patron's kindness, he no longer hesitated to employ his leisure in the execution of this great design. When the manuscript was ready for the press, Mr. Paley would have sold it to Mr. Faulder of Bond-street, the publisher of his occasional sermons, for three hundred pounds, but he refused to give more than two hundred and fifty. Whilst the treaty was pending, a bookseller from Carlisle, happening to call on an eminent publisher in Paternoster-row, was commissioned by him to offer Mr. Paley one thousand pounds for the copy-right of his work. The bookseller, on his return to Carlisle, duly executed the commission, which was communicated without delay to the Bishop of Clonfert, who being at that time in London, had undertaken the management of the affair. "Never did I suffer so much anxious fear," said Mr. Paley, in relating the circumstance, "as on this occasion, lest my friend should have concluded the bargain with Mr. Faulder before my letter could reach him." Luckily he had not, but on receiving the letter, went immediately into Bond-street and made this new demand. Mr. Faulder, though in no small degree surprised and astonished at the advance, agreed to pay the sum required before the bishop left the house. "Little did I think," said Mr. Paley in allusion to this affair, "that I should ever make a thousand pounds by any book of mine;" a strong proof of unassuming merit; but after the offer above-mentioned, he was entitled to have asked a still larger sum.

The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy, or, as it was at first entitled, the Principles of Morality and Politics, appeared in 1785, in one volume quarto, dedicated in a very elegant address, to his patron the Bishop of Carlisle. The partiality of friendship was not disappointed in the success of this excellent work, which, notwithstanding a few objec-

tionable passages, soon established the author's reputation. It passed through fifteen editions during his life; in which, amidst many verbal alterations, there are none which materially affect the sense. Whilst he makes no pretensions to perfect originality, he claims to be something more than a mere compiler. The mode of reasoning and illustrations are generally his own; but he has borrowed much, as he fairly acknowledges, from preceding writers, and particularly from the desultory but ingenious treatise of Mr. Abraham Tucker, "The light of Nature pursued."

On the death of Dr. Burn, the well-known author of the Justice of the Peace and Ecclesiastical Law, November 20th, 1785, Mr. Paley was appointed chancellor of the diocese of Carlisle. The chancellorship has been generally valued at one hundred pounds per annum, but there are fees of office, which might probably make it more.

The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy were introduced, by the late most excellent Mr. Jones, senior tutor of Trinity college, when discharging the duties of moderator in the University of Cambridge, in 1786 and 1787, as a standard book, in the disputations in the schools, and in the subsequent examination for a bachelor's degree.

The venerable Bishop of Carlisle died at Rose Castle, August 14th, 1787, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. Mr. Paley afterwards drew up a short memoir, the only account of his life hitherto given to the public, which has been inserted to Hutchinson's History of Cumberland.

Whilst Mr. Paley officiated as his lordship's examining chaplain, he had noticed the usefulness of Collyer's Sacred Interpreter, and had recommended it to those, who were preparing for deacon's orders within the diocese of Carlisle. As that work had now become scarce, he caused it to be republished at Carlisle in a cheap form, and annexed to it a short analysis of the book of Revelations, chiefly taken

from the learned dissertations of Bishop Newton, and the commentary of Mr. Daubuz.

In 1789, when Dr. Beadon was promoted to the see of Gloucester, the mastership of Jesus college, Cambridge, was offered to Mr. Paley, in a very handsome manner, by the Bishop of Ely (Dr. Yorke). The conduct of Bishop Yorke on this occasion deserves the highest approbation, since there had been no previous connection between the parties, and he must have been actuated solely by a wish to promote the interest of the university, and reward the merit of one of her ablest sons. The place itself, indeed, is more honourable than lucrative, but is tenable with any other preferment, and desirable in many respects. Mr. Paley, however, to the undoubted loss and regret of the whole university, declined the offer, though strongly urged to accept it by Sir John Wilson and some other friends. The motives of his refusal have never been clearly ascertained, nor is it known that he gave any reason for it, even to those with whom he was most intimate.

In 1790, Mr. Paley published his Horæ Paulinæ, or the Truth of the Scripture History of St. Paul evinced, by a comparison of the Epistles which bear his name, with the Acts of the Apostles, and with one another, which he dedicated to Dr. Law, then Bishop of Killalla and Achonry, in a short and affectionate address. In this, his first attempt from the press to demonstrate the authenticity of the Christian Scriptures, he shows, by a comparison of several indirect allusions and references in the Acts and the Epistles, that, independent of all collateral testimony, their undesigned coincidence affords the strongest proof of their genuineness, and of the reality of the transactions to which they relate. The principal circumstances in the history of St. Paul being thus established, tend, by a necessary inference, to confirm the substantial truth of what is otherwise recorded of the founder of Christianity, and to repel some of the ob-

jections on which the adversaries of that revelation so confidently rely.

In the same year, at his annual visitation, Mr. Paley delivered a charge to the clergy of the diocese of Carlisle, on the use and propriety of local and occasional preaching; "submitting to them," as chancellor, "that species of counsel and exhortation, which," he observes, "they would with more propriety, perhaps, have received from him in the character of their archdeacon, if the functions of that office had remained entire."

Mrs. Paley died, after a long illness, in May 1791, leaving four sons and four daughters.

In February, 1792, Mr. Paley presided at a meeting of the inhabitants of Carlisle, holden for the purpose of petitioning parliament for abolition of the slave trade, and introduced, in an able and convincing speech, a series of spirited resolutions against this impolitic and inhuman traffic.

In an interview with Mr. Clarkson, soon after this meeting, he pointed out the necessity of forming, on some extensive plan, an establishment in Africa, with a view to civilize the natives. This object he seemed to have had much at heart, as a debt due to a much injured people, and as one that could be practically paid. He was favourable to the idea of carrying over, from the United States of America, several little colonies of free negroes, who were able to procure certificates of their good character, and willing to go. These were to be settled, by the British government, in different parts of the country, to have grants of land, and be recognized as British subjects, that they might serve as a pattern to the natives, in their several vicinities, by leading a civilized life. A similar plan had been already suggested by Mr. Pitt, but the idea had occurred to Mr. Paley about the same time.

Mr. Paley, at the request of the managers of the Sunday-schools in Carlisle, had compiled, some years before, a small work, entitled, "The Young Christian instructed in Reading, and the Principles of Religion,

for the use of those Schools." This little book, in which plain usefulness could be his only object, gave rise to a very singular charge of plagiarism, in the Gentleman's Magazine for February 1792, from Mr. Robertson, the author of a much more elegant production of the same kind. Mr. Paley, who laid no claims to originality in his compilation, except for a short history of Jesus Christ, gave in the same miscellany for April, a reply which has been much admired as a masterpiece of neat, good-humoured refutation.

On the 7th of May, he was inducted to the vicarage of Addingham, near Great Salkeld, a living worth about one hundred and forty pounds a year, on the presentation of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle.

During the political ferment, which led to the interference of Great Britain in the war of the French revolution, Mr. Paley published a short tract, entitled, Reasons for Contentment, addressed to the Labouring Classes, and re-published, as a separate essay, the chapter on the British constitution, from his Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy; for which he has been accused of abandoning his former sentiments, and giving countenance to the delusions of the day. On an impartial examination, however, his conduct will appear perfectly consistent, and to have originated in a very fair and dispassionate view of the state of the public mind.

Dr. Vernon, a prelate distinguished by the most pleasing affability of manners, had succeeded, in 1790, amidst a round of ecclesiastical promotions, to the see of Carlisle. Mr. Paley vacated Dalston, March 15th, 1793, on being collated, by his new diocesan, to the vicarage of Stanwix, in the more immediate neighbourhood of Carlisle, to which he was inducted on the 15th of April. Being afterwards asked, by a clerical friend, why he quitted Dalston, he answered with a frankness peculiar to him, for he knew no deceit:— "Why, Sir, I had two or three reasons for taking Stanwix in exchange: first, it saved me double house-

keeping, as Stanwix was within a twenty minute's walk of my house in Carlisle; secondly, it was fifty pounds a year more in value; and thirdly, I began to find my stock of sermons coming over again too fast."

Mr. Paley was at this time engaged in preparing for the press his View of the Evidences of Christianity, which appeared early in 1794, in three volumes 12mo., and was soon after republished in two volumes 8vo. The direct historical testimony for the authenticity of the Christian Revelation, already adduced by the indefatigable Lardner, is admirably selected and arranged in this important work: and the general argument drawn up with great clearness and felicity.

The Bishop of London, Dr. Porteus, a contemporary fellow of Christ's college, and a defender of the Truth and Divine Origin of the Christian Revelation, took the lead, and instituted him, August 4, 1794, to the prebend of Pancras, in the cathedral of St. Paul's.

Soon after this, he was promoted to the sub-deanery of Lincoln, a preferment of about seven hundred pounds a year, by Dr. Pretyman, bishop of that diocese, who, being allowed the disposal of his vacated prebend in the cathedral church of Carlisle, conferred it on his old friend, Mr. William Sheepshanks, his lordship's private tutor at college. Mr. Paley was installed, as sub-dean, in the cathedral church of Lincoln, January 24, 1795, and from thence proceeded to Cambridge, to take his degree of doctor in divinity. As he was now a master of arts of more than twelve years standing, and a non-gremial, the intermediate degree of bachelor in divinity was dispensed with; and no other exercises were required of him by the laws of the university, but a *Conscio ad Clerum* and an English sermon.

After reading himself in, as a prebend, at St. Paul's Cathedral, March 8th, Dr. Paley, for he now assumed that title, immediately proceeded to Bishop-Wearmouth, and took possession of his valuable cure. He was inducted, March 14th, by Mr. Farrer, the highly

respectable rector of Sunderland, with whom he had been many years acquainted, and who, resigning that rectory soon after, succeeded him in the vicarage of Stanwix. The rectory house at Bishop-Wearmouth is one of the best parsonages in the kingdom, and, with the out-offices and adjacent grounds, had been left by the last incumbent in a very improved state.

He returned to Cambridge against the commencement, to complete his doctor's degree, and on Saturday, July 5, preached before the university, his Sermon on the Dangers incidental to the Clerical Character, which he published soon after, with a short dedication to the vice-chancellor and heads of colleges, as a testimony of affection and respect.

Soon after Dr. Paley's establishment at Bishop-Wearmouth, some of the principal land-owners in that parish, wishing to remove even the probability of future dispute, offered him an annual compensation for the tythes. As, upon inspecting the accounts of his predecessor, he found this proposal, to all appearance, fair and equitable, he readily acquiesced, and granted them a lease for his life; and thus, by sacrificing any eventual interest of his own in the agricultural improvement of the parish, avoided one great source of disquietude and vexation. As a writer, he had already reprobated tythes, as "noxious to cultivation and improvement," and recommended "their conversion into corn-rents, as a practicable and beneficial alteration, in which the interest of all parties might be equitably adjusted;" and he now acted in strict conformity to these principles, "leaving to the industry of his parishioners, its full operation and entire reward." By this agreement, the lessees were generally enabled to return from sixpence to eighteen pence in the pound, on the annual amount of the great tythes, to those who were punctual in their payments, whilst they seldom attended much to the small. Dr. Paley, on the other hand, found himself perfectly at ease by this arrangement, and, when he heard of a bad crop, used to say—"Ay, ay, now,

I am well off; my tythes are safe, and I have nothing to do with them, or to think about them."

He also granted long leases of his glebe lands, and particularly of a limestone quarry to the old tenant, upon very moderate terms. From the great rise in landed property, which took place immediately after, his tenants had very advantageous bargains: a circumstance to which he sometimes, indeed, alluded in conversation, but without the least marks of dissatisfaction or regret.

Dr. Paley was married, December 14, 1795, to Miss Dobinson of Carlisle, a lady with whose worth he was well acquainted, from an intimacy of several years. Soon after his marriage, he set out for Lincoln, where, as sub-dean, he was obliged to reside three months annually, at the commencement of the year. Between this city and Bishop-Wearmouth he now principally divided his time, making occasional excursions into Craven and Cumberland on his route.

He visited a good deal amongst his neighbours, both at Lincoln and Bishop-Wearmouth, and entertained company in a handsome, but by no means ostentatious style. He frequently mixed in card parties, and was considered a skilful player at whist; but he would, at all times, readily forego the game for conversation with an intelligent companion. A lady once observed to him, at a card-table at Lincoln, "that the only excuse for their playing was that it served to kill time." —"The best defence possible, madam," replied he, "though time will in the end kill us."

In the summer of 1801, Dr. Paley held a visitation of the clergy of the diocese of Carlisle, officiating as chancellor for his friend professor Carlyle, who having accompanied the Earl of Elgin in his embassy to Constantinople in 1799, had been since actively engaged in literary travels and researches in the Levant. Dr. Paley was highly gratified with the correspondence of his friend, during this interesting tour; "the remarks of a sensible man on foreign countries being always," as he said, "worth attend-

ing to, especially when written on the spot." In the autumn of this year, he was visited by the intelligent traveller himself, at Bishop-Wearmouth, immediately after his return; when, besides every other object of rational curiosity, Dr. Paley could scarcely fail to be interested, in the advantages which might accrue to biblical and general literature, from the researches and projects of his friend.

About the same time he was visited by Mr. Macintosh*, the celebrated author of the Vindiciæ Gallicæ, with a letter of introduction from Sir Edward Law. The fascinating powers of conversation, by which this gentleman is so highly distinguished, and the curious information which he was able to communicate, particularly about the great historical design of Mr. Fox, amply rewarded the hospitality of Dr. Paley, and left on his mind a strong impression of the talents of his accomplished guest.

A violent return of a nephalgic complaint (which he had previously laboured under) prevented Dr. Paley from keeping his annual residence at Lincoln, in 1802. The writer of these memoirs had, at that time, occasionally the honour of passing an hour with him, by invitation, during some of his intervals of freedom from excruciating pain. His mind was still calm and vigorous, his vivacity unimpaired, and he conversed with his usual energy on various topics.

In May, when he was so far recovered, as to bear the fatigues of travelling, Dr. Paley was induced to try the Buxton waters, by the advice of his physician, Dr. Clarke of Newcastle, who, himself afflicted with a violent disorder, soon after followed him to that place. There they were joined by Dr. Currie of Liverpool, who met Dr. Clark by appointment, and who had been previously acquainted with Dr. Paley at Carlisle.

The waters at Buxton having effected a partial

* Now Sir James Macintosh, late Recorder of Bombay.

restoration of his health, Dr. Paley returned to Bishop-Wearmouth after an absence of two months.

Soon after this he published his Natural Theology; or, Evidences of the Existences and Attributes of the Deity, collected from the appearances of Nature.

Dr. Paley resigned the archdeaconry of Carlisle and the rectory of Great Salkeld in 1804.

Dr. Paley still entered into the pleasures of society with his wonted zest; and his conversation was as animated and impressive as ever, when Mr. Meadley saw him, for the last time, in December 1804. His valuable life was then drawing fast towards a close; and the powers of nature, gradually exhausted by repeated sufferings, were becoming daily less able to resist the force of his inveterate disease. Yet he kept his annual residence at Lincoln in 1805, and returned to Bishop-Wearmouth about the beginning of May. Soon after his arrival there, he experienced a most violent attack, in which the usual remedies were found ineffectual. Human skill was therefore vain; his appetite failing him, he was no longer able to take the requisite support; but soon sunk under the accumulated influence of debility and disease. His sight is supposed to have failed a few days before his death, whilst his other faculties remained unimpaired. Perhaps no man ever preserved greater self-possession and composure, during his concluding scene. The evening of his life was clouded with no displeasing recollections, no vain anxieties, no fond regrets: he had enjoyed the blessings of this world with satisfaction; and he relied for future happiness on the promises of that divine revelation, the truth of which he had so strenuously laboured to evince. He consesequently met the approach of death with firmness, comforted his afflicted family with the consolations of religion, and late on the evening of Saturday, May 25, 1805, he tranquilly breathed his last.

His remains were conveyed to Carlisle, attended by his two elder sons, and buried on Tuesday the 4th

of June, in one of the aisles of the cathedral, by the side of his first wife.

Through life Dr. Paley, discharged his duties, as a minister of the gospel, with advantage to others, and with credit to himself. During his residence in the university, he was a frequent preacher at St. Mary's, and afterwards in the different churches of which he had the care. At Appleby he is said to have frequently preached from short notes; a practice rendered easy to him by his college lectures. His accent was indeed provincial, his voice rough and inharmonious; but his manner was highly impressive, and his delivery marked by a peculiar force and energy of expression. Amongst those who prefer sense to sound, he was, at all times, a justly popular preacher; for his sermons were distinguished by those simple and perspicuous arguments, that original, terse, and satisfactory mode of explanation, that clear and pointed style, which uniformly bespoke the character of his mind.

At the north-western extremity of Peterborough fen, is the village of PEAKIRK; this place had anciently a considerable monastery, but, having often suffered from the Danes, it was removed to Croyland.

At Norborough, a village, about one mile and a half to the north of Peakirk, are the remains of a large and rather curious old manor-house, now belonging to Earl Fitzwilliam, but formerly possessed by the Cleypoles. In this house died the wife of Oliver Cromwell, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married John Cleypole, of this place. Attached to the church is a chantry, called Cleypole's Chapel, in which are some mutilated monuments, to the memory of different persons of that family, and in the parish register is the following entry: "Elizabeth, the relict of Oliver Cromwell, sometime protector of England, was buried November, 19, 1665."

About one mile and a half to the north-west of Norborough, is the village of Maxey, where was formerly a castle, or manor-house, surrounded by a

moat, which, Camden says, belonged to the Barons of Wake. The church has some ancient parts, and contains a few old but mutilated inscriptions.

Lolham Bridges, in this parish, are of great antiquity, and were originally designed to convey the Ermine Street over the fenny grounds adjacent to the river Welland. This part of the road is supposed to have been made or repaired by Lollius Urbicus, who was proprætor in Britain, during the reigns of Adrian and Antoninus, in the year 144.—Camden observes, that in his time there were eleven arches, though ruinous with age; and Morton states that there were fourteen. Here are now four bridges, two consisting of three arches each, one of four, and one of two, and these are kept in repair at the expence of the county. From these bridges the Roman road extends to Cater Bridge, and thence passes, nearly in a right line, over the heath to Lincoln. In this vicinity numerous coins have been dug up, and other vestiges are indicative of the Romans having been in possession of this part of the country.

On leaving Peterborough our road lies to the west, and, at the distance of three miles, we pass, on our right, Milton, the seat and property of Earl Fitzwilliam. The house, which is a large irregular edifice, has evidently been built at different periods, the most ancient appearing to be of the age of Elizabeth, though the Fitzwilliams had resided here long before.

At the distance of about four miles from Peterborough, we pass through the village of Castor, where it is supposed there was once a Roman city, many antiquities having been found here at different periods, such as foundations of walls, baths, pavements, coins, and the remains of camps and entrenchments. The Roman highway that passes by it, is called Ermine Street, which soon after divides into two, and the causeways are still to be seen. The one, called Forty-foot Way, begins at Peterborough,

and passes by Burley-park wall to Stamford; and the other, Long Ditch, or High Street, by Lolham Bridges. The church at Castor is a very ancient edifice, and the tower is a fine piece of architecture, with semicircular arches; but the spire seems to be of later date. By the porch of the church is a well, faced with Roman bricks, and at the east end of it are the remains of a very ancient cross. Near the church, on a hill, are the ruins of a castle, supposed to have been the residence of one of the Roman governors.

In the vicinity of Castor, near Gunwade Ferry, are two large upright stones, provincially called *Robin Hood* and *Little John*. Gunton, in his History of Peterborough, says they were set up as evidences that the carriages of stone from Barnack quarries might pass this ferry without paying a toll.

Pursuing our road, at the distance of three miles from Castor, we pass through the village of WANDSFORD, which has obtained an idle addition to its name, from a story firmly believed by the country people, viz. that a great flood coming hastily down the river Nen, in hay-making time, a countryman, having taken up his lodging on a cock of hay in the meadow, was driven on the hay down the stream, in the night, while he was asleep, towards Wisbeach in the fens; when, having been awakened, he was seen and taken up by some fishermen, almost in the open sea; and having been asked where he lived, he answered, "At Wandsford in England;" by which appellation it is now generally known.

About five miles to the north of Wandsford, on the right of the road to Stamford, is Burleigh-hall, the magnificent seat of the Cecil family, now the property of the Marquis of Exeter. The park was formed, and the house mostly built, by Lord Treasurer Burleigh, in the time of Queen Elizabeth; and the following inscription, over one of the entrances within a central court, records the æra of this work; "W. DOM. DE BVRGHLEY, 1577." This mansion is

built of free-stone, and looks more like a town than a house; for, by which avenue soever you approach it, the towers and pinnacles are so high, and placed at such a distance from each other, that they appear like so many parish churches in a great town; and a large stone spire over the clock in the centre appears like the cathedral or chief church of the town.

The house stands on an eminence, which rises from the north entrance of the park; on the other side, viz. the south and west, the country lies on a level with the house, and is a fine plain, with posts and other marks for horse-races. The front of the house looks towards the flat low grounds of Lincolnshire; it has an uninterrupted prospect into the fens, for nearly thirty miles. Before the great gate, or principal entrance to the house, there is a small but very handsome semicircle, taken in with an iron balustrade; the front is a very grand and beautiful design, considering that the ancient architecture was but newly introduced at the time of its erection; the projections are well proportioned and bold. From the semicircle above-named, at the top of a few steps, is an entrance to a most noble hall, made more noble by the invaluable paintings with which it is filled; indeed this magnificent mansion is supposed to contain the first collection of pictures in the kingdom.

John the fifth Earl of Exeter, possessed a great genius for painting and architecture, and a superior judgment in both, as every part of this noble structure will testify; for he changed the whole face of the building, pulled down great part of the front next the garden, and turned the old Gothic windows into those spacious sashes which are now seen there; and though the founder, who had also an exquisite taste, had so ordered the situation and avenues of the whole fabric, and had also contrived the house itself in a most magnificent manner, the rooms spacious, the ceilings lofty, and the decorations just, yet the said

Earl John found room for alterations, infinitely to the advantage of the whole; as particularly a staircase, which leads to a range of spacious rooms of state.

As the noble lord abovementioned was an admirer of paintings, so he had infinite advantages in procuring them; for he had not only travelled three times into Italy, and staid every time a considerable while at Florence, but his princely deportment and fine accomplishments procured him the personal esteem of the Great Duke, who assisted him in the purchase of many excellant pieces, and likewise presented him with several others of great value. Among others there is, in the great hall, his lordship's picture on horseback, done by the Great Duke's principal painter, at his highness's charge, and given to his lordship as a mark of special favour; there is also a fine piece of Seneca bleeding to death in the warm bath, and dictating his last morals to his scholars, by Jordains of Antwerp, a piece so excellent, that the late king of France is said to have offered the earl 6000 pistoles for it.

The staircase, the ceiling of all the fine lodgings, the chapel, the hall, and the earl's closet, were all painted by the celebrated Verrio, whom the then earl kept twelve years in his family, wholly employed in them, and allowed him an equipage, a table, servants, and a considerable pension.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about six miles from Wandsford, we arrived at the village of DUDDINGTON, one mile and a half to the north-east of which is the village of Colly Weston, where large quantities of slate are dug.

Journey from Wandsford to Thrapston; through Oundle.

On leaving Wandsford we proceed in a southerly direction, and, at the distance of one mile, pass through the village of Yarwell, about four miles to the west of which is CLIFF REGIS, or King's Cliff, so denominated traditionally from King John having had

a hunting seat there, but more probably from the manor belonging to the crown; it is a small town, and its market, formerly held on Tuesday, has been long discontinued.

At this place was born, in 1686, the Rev. William Law, a celebrated polemical and nonjuring divine, who refusing preferments on account of required oaths, lived in retirement upon a very small patrimony, but at times took up his pen in religious controversy. His successful vindication of the received doctrine of the Eucharist, against the notions of Bishop Hoadly, is well known; and the name of Law will go down with credit to the latest posterity, connected as it is with the celebrated Bangorian controversy. He early admired the works of Jacob, and to read them with more effect, studied the German language, in which they were written. Law's Treatise on Christian Perfection, and the Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life, which have gone through numerous editions, are in some measure tinctured with the ascetic opinions of the Mystics.

About one mile and a half south from King's Cliff, is the village of APETHORPE, the church of which has several windows enriched with stained glass. On each side of the chancel are six stalls, similar to those in many cathedral churches: this church is also adorned with several handsome monuments, the most conspicuous of which is an altar-tomb, having the figures of Sir Anthony Mildmay, knight, and that of Lady Grace, his wife; he clad in armour, she dressed in the costume of the times, and both placed in supplicating postures. This sepulchre is decorated with a magnificent and sumptuous monument, the lofty canopy of which is supported on one side by two statues, representative of Justice and of Wisdom. On the other side is Charity, in the act of pouring wine out of a flagon into a chalice, and Devotion resting her right hand upon a pillar. At the upper part of the east end is a virgin in folding robes, having a cross in her right hand, and a tablet in the left. At the

west end is Hope raising her eyes towards heaven, her right hand placed on the breast, and her left arm reclining on an anchor. In the centre, over all, is a female figure with an infant: the whole of this gorgeous monument is well conceived, and beautifully executed.—Sir Anthony, who died in September, 1617, had been chancellor of the exchequer and privy-counsellor, and ambassador from Queen Elizabeth; and Lady Grace, who died in July, 1620, had been his affectionate wife for fifty years.

Near the above village is Apethorpe, the seat of the Earl of Westmoreland; it is an handsome edifice of free-stone, consisting of a quadrangle, formed by a body and two wings, and the eastern side finished with an open cloister. On the south side is a statue of King James the First, in commemoration of a visit paid to this place by that monarch, in his journey from Scotland, in the year 1603, and is said to have contributed the timber towards the completion of the building; the various apartments of which are now ornamented with numerous paintings.

Resuming our road, at the distance of about three miles from the village of Yarwell, is FOTHERINGHAY, where was formerly a castle, supposed to have been originally erected by Simon St. Liz, second Earl of Northampton, in the time of the Conqueror; but, falling into decay, it was rebuilt in the reign of Edward the Third, by Edmund Langley, Duke of York, who made the keep in the shape of a fetter-lock, the device or emblem, (with the occasional addition of a falcon in the centre,) of the York family. The same figure, in stained glass, was likewise emblazoned in most of the castle windows. This fortress became by marriage the property of the Scottish kings; and, in the fourteenth year of King John's reign, David of Scotland was summoned to surrender the castle to the crown of England, but refusing to comply, the sheriff was directed, by royal mandate, to raise the posse comitatus to force him to submission. During the reign of Henry the Third, William de Fortibus, Earl

of Albermarle and Holderness, took this castle by surprise, while it was in the possession of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and, having garrisoned it, ravaged the adjacent country. In the year 1496, Edward the Fourth, after having quelled the insurrection of the northern men, on his return met his queen here, who had waited his arrival, and in this fortress he had previously, in the twenty-second year of his reign, taken up his residence; when Alexander, king of Scotland, had an audience, and promised to do fealty and homage to the King of England.

Henry the Eighth settled the honour of Fotheringhay in dower on Queen Catherine; and, in the time of Elizabeth, its custody was entrusted to Sir William Fitzwilliam. During the reign of this queen the castle was rendered a scene of woe, and its name will ever be associated with sentiments of horror and melancholy, for it was here that Mary Stuart, queen of Scots, after suffering imprisonment, in the year 1580, was tried, condemned, and executed. Various opinions prevail respecting the justice or injustice of this cruel and apparently unjust act. Camden, who was a cotemporary, and had ample means of arriving at truth, endeavours to avoid any discussion upon it; saying, "Let oblivion cover it if it can; if not, at least let it be passed by in silence."

For this studied reserve, however, there existed very obvious reasons, as Camden held under Elizabeth a place of great trust and emolument; so that, whatever might have been his real opinion, concealment was, at least, an act of prudence. Fotheringhay, however, notwithstanding the aversion of some, and the misrepresentation of others, notwithstanding the castle has been demolished, and the walls of her prison down, will, in its name and site, transmit the deplorable and nefarious transaction to the latest posterity.

"And, lo! where Time, with brighten'd face serene,
Points to you fair, but glorious opening sky;
See truth walk forth, majestic, awful queen!
And Party's blackening mist before her fly.

Falsehood, unmask'd, withdraws her ugly train,
And Mary's virtues all illustrious shine—
Yes, thou hast friends! the godlike and humane
Of latest ages, injured queen, are thine.

But come, ye nymphs, ye woodland spirits come,
And with funereal flowers your tresses braid;
While in this hallowed grove we raise the tomb,
And consecrate the song to Mary's shade.

Hither, ye gentle guardians of the fair,
By Virtue's tears, by weeping Beauty come;
Unbind the festive robes, unbind the hair,
And wave the cypress bough at Mary's tomb.

MICKLE.

Though this unfortunate queen was not a native of this county, yet, as her fate is so intimately connected with its history, we trust it will not be deemed intrusive to introduce the following sketch of her life:

Mary, queen of Scots, was not less famous for her beauty than her wit and learning; she was born on the 8th of December, in the year 1542, and was the daughter and sole heiress of James the Fifth, king of Scots, by Mary of Lorrain, his second queen, and dowager of Longueville. She was not eight days old when her father died; whereupon, after great animosities among the nobility, it was decreed, that the Earl of Arran, as being by proximity of blood the next heir to the crown in legitimate descent, and the first peer of Scotland, should be made governor of the kingdom, and guardian of the queen, who remained in the mean time, with her mother, in the royal palace of Linlithgow.

Great suit being made by Henry the Eighth, in behalf of his son Edward, for this princess, in her childhood, it was at length agreed, between the chief peers of both nations, that she should be given in marriage to that prince, which, being afterwards refused by her governor, occasioned the famous battle of Musselburgh. Upon the defeat of the Scots at this battle, Mary was conveyed by the queen-mother into

the Isle of Inchemahom, where she laid the foundation of her knowledge in the Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian languages; in which she afterwards arrived at so great perfection, that few were found equal to her in any of them, and none superior in them all. The queen-mother being inclined to the interest of France, the young princess, by her care, was conveyed thither, when she was about six years old.

After staying a few days with the king and queen at the French court, she was sent to a monastery, where the daughters of the chief nobility of the kingdom were educated; here she spent her time in all the offices and duties of a monastic life, being constant in her devotional exercises. She had an excellent taste for music, and played well on several instruments; she was likewise a fine dancer, and sat a horse gracefully: these last accomplishments, however, she pursued rather out of necessity than choice, for, when she followed most her own inclinations, she was generally employed among her women in needle-work. All these accomplishments, together with a fine person, rendered her so amiable to Henry the Second of France, and his queen, as to make them desirous of uniting her in marriage with the Dauphin, which was accomplished, and the nuptials solemnized on the 20th of April, 1558; but this happy marriage, for such it appears to have been, was but of short duration, as Francis the Second, as he then was, being seized with a catarrh, died of it, on the 5th of December, 1560. His disconsolate queen, being left without issue, returned soon after to Scotland, where she had not been long before Charles, archduke of Austria, was proposed to her as an husband, by the Cardinal of Lorrain: but Queen Elizabeth interposing, desired she would not marry with any foreign prince, but make choice of an husband out of her own nobility. She recommended to her either the Earl of Leicester, or the Lord Darnley, giving her to understand, that her succession to the crown of England would be very precarious, if she did not comply.

Being thus overawed by Elizabeth, she consented to marry the latter, who was extremely handsome; and, creating him Earl of Ross and Duke of Rothesay, on the 28th of July, 1565, he was the same day proclaimed king at Edinburgh, and married to the queen the day after. By this union she had one son, born at Edinburgh on the 19th of June, 1566, who was afterwards James the Sixth of Scotland, and First of England. Queen Elizabeth congratulated her upon this occasion; though, as Camden says, she inwardly grieved at being prevented by her rival in the honour of being a mother. She openly favoured her title to the succession, and the prince was commended to her Majesty's protection. In the beginning of February, 1567, the new king of Scotland was murdered in a barbarous manner, by the contrivance of the Earl of Murray, the queen's base brother; and, on the 15th of May following, she was married to John Hepborne, Earl of Bothwell, a man of an ambitious temper, and dissolute manners, and who, in reality, had been Lord Darnley's murderer.

From this time a series of misfortunes attended her to the end of her life: the different views and interests of the nobility, clergy, and gentry, in regard to religious and political affairs, had so broken the peace of the kingdom, that all things appeared in the greatest disorder and confusion. The Earl of Bothwell was forced to fly into Denmark to save his life; the queen was seized, carried prisoner to Lochleven, and was treated on the road with such scorn and contempt, as her own personal dignity might, one would suppose, have secured her from, though that, indeed, was greatly obscured; for she was put into very mean apparel, and when the inhabitants of the town came out to meet her, she made a most disgraceful figure, being covered with dust and tears. She was conveyed to the Provost's lodgings, and committed to the care of Murray's mother, who having been James the Fifth's concubine, "insulted much (says Camden) over the unfortunate and afflicted Queen, boasting that

she was the lawful wife of James the Fifth, and that her son Murray was his lawful issue." What aggravated Mary's misfortunes was, that she was believed to have been the cause of Lord Darnley's death, in order to revenge the loss of David Rizzio, a musician, supposed to have been her gallant, and whom Lord Darnley had killed on that account. When Queen Elizabeth heard of the ill treatment of the Queen of Scots, she seemed fired with indignation at it, and sent Sir Nicholas Throgmorton into Scotland to expostulate with the conspirators on it, and consult by what means she might be restored to her liberty: but Elizabeth was by no means that friend to Mary which she pretended to be; and if she were not in some measure the contriver of these troubles to her, there is great reason to think that she secretly rejoiced at them. When Queen Elizabeth was crowned, the Queen of Scots had assumed the arms and title of the kingdom of England; and this indignity Elizabeth could never forget, as not thinking herself quite safe, while Mary harboured such pretensions. Having been detained a prisoner at Lochleven eleven months, and most inhumanely forced to comply with many unreasonable demands, highly detrimental to her honour and interest, she escaped on the 2nd of May, 1568, from thence to Hamilton Castle. Here, in an assembly of several of the nobility, there was drawn a sentence, declaring that the grants extorted from her majesty in prison, among which was a resignation of the crown, were actually void from the beginning; upon which such great numbers of people came in to her assistance, that within two or three days she had an army of at least 6000 men. On the other side Murray, with great expedition, made all preparations imaginable to attack the Queen's forces, before they became too formidable; and when they joined battle, her majesty's army, consisting of raw soldiers, were soon defeated, and she was obliged to save herself by flight, travelling in one day 60 miles, to the house of Maxwell, Lord Harris; from thence she didsatched a

messenger to Queen Elizabeth, with a diamond, which she had formerly received from her, as a pledge of mutual amity; signifying, that she would come into England, and beg her assistance, if her rebellious subjects continued to persecute her any farther. Queen Elizabeth returned her a very kind answer, with large but unmeaning promises of doing her the most friendly offices. Before the messenger came back, she rejecting the advice of her friends, found means to convey herself into England, landing, on the 17th of May, at Workington, in Cumberland; and on the same day wrote letters in the French language with her own hand, to Queen Elizabeth; in which she gave her a long detail of her misfortunes, desiring her protection and aid against her rebellious subjects. Queen Elizabeth affected to comfort her, promised to protect her cause; and, under pretence of greater security, commanded that she should be carried to Carlisle. Now the unfortunate Mary began to perceive her own error, in not following the advice of her friends: England, instead of being a sanctuary to the distressed Queen, was perhaps the worst place she could have fled to; for being denied access to Queen Elizabeth from the first, and confined in different prisons for the space of eighteen years, in which she had often struggled for liberty, she was at length brought to a trial, condemned, and beheaded, on a charge of being concerned in a conspiracy against the life of Queen Elizabeth. She professed to die for the Romish religion, and has since been considered as a saint by that church. She was executed within the castle of Fotheringhay, in the year 1587, and interred in the cathedral of Peterborough, but her remains were afterwards taken up, as beforementioned, by her son, and removed to a vault in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Westminster Abbey, where a most magnificent monument was erected to her memory.

Resuming our description of the castle of Fotheringhay, we learn from an ancient manuscript, and an account given of it by Leland, that it must have been

a noble structure, containing numerous apartments, secured by strongly fortified walls, with double ditches; the mill-brook serving for part of the inner, and the river Nen for the outer moat. But on the accession of James to the throne of England, an order was issued for its demolition, and nothing now remains except the site marked by the moats, with the agger on which the keep was erected; and the latter has, within a few years, been nearly levelled with the ground.

Simon St. Liz is said to have founded a nunnery in the village of Fotheringhay at a very remote period, on the site of which a college for seculars was erected by Edward Langley, Duke of York, in the year 1412. The society consisted of a master, 12 chaplains, eight clerks, 13 choristers, was incorporated and confirmed under the title of "the Master and College of the Blessed Virgin, and All Saint's in Fotheringhay," which the founder and future benefactors amply endowed. According to Speed, the annual revenues, at the dissolution, amounted to 489*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* After the suppression, this college was given, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, to the Duke of Northumberland; and was soon after taken down. Some remains of the walls are still visible towards the river, as also part of the cloisters and arches of the choir, adjoining the south side of the conventual church. The demolition of this part of the edifice is deeply to be regretted, as, from a description given of it in an estimate made of the monastic premises in the year 1553, it appears to have been a noble building.—"In the cloister windows, in number 88, were painted stories, much broken, which, being pulled down, would be of no value; and in the library were seven windows; and in the rooms and chambers of the cloisters were 18 doors of free-stone, rated one with another at iiis. ivd. a door." The only part of this structure now remaining, consists of a lofty nave, two aisles, and a square tower at the west end, surmounted by an octagon tower of later erection; and the whole ornamented with elegant

pinnacles and embattled parapets. The windows were formerly embellished with painted glass, some traces of which may yet be seen. On the wall of the south aisle is the following incription indicative of the æra of the building:

"In festo Martyrii processo Martiniani.
Ecclesiæ prima fuit hujus petra locata;
Ao. Xti. C. quater et M. cumdeca quinta,
Henrici quinti tunc imminente secundo."

A stone monument near the communion table has the following incription:

"These monuments of EDWARD DUKE OF YORK, and Richard of York, was made in the year of our Lord God 1573. The sayd Edward was slayne in the battle of Agincourt, in the 3d yeare of Henry ye 5th."

And on a similar monument is this inscription:

"RICHARD PLANTAGENET, Duke of
Yorke, nephew to Edward Duke of
Yorke, father to King Edward ye
4th, was slane at Wakefield,
In the 37th year of Henry ye
6th, 1450. And lieth buryed
Here with Cicely his wife.

It is observed by Camden, that "these princes had all magnificent monuments, which were thrown down and ruined, together with the upper part or channel of the church. But Queen Elizabeth commanded two monuments to be set up in memory of them, in the lower end of the church, now standing; which, nevertheless (such was their narrowness who had the charge of the work) are looked upon as very mean for such great princes, descended from kings, and from whom the kings of England are descended." The Richard above-mentioned having aspired to the crown, and attempting to obtain accession on the death of Henry the Sixth, was slain in an engagement, by the queen's troops, under the command of the Duke of

Somerset. His remains were first interred at Pontefract in Yorkshire; but afterwards conveyed for sepulture to this place. Cicely his relict, by her will, directed her body to be buried by the side of that of her husband; and to secure the fulfilment of her wish, she made an interested appeal to the canons, and engaging them to assist in the execution of her request, provided her body be buried at "Fodringhay, she gives to the said colege a square canapie crymson clothe of gold, a chesibull, and twoo tenucles, and thre capes of blewe velvett, bordered with thre abes, thre masse bokes, thre grayles, and seven processioners."

The village of Fotheringhay was formerly a considerable town, having a weekly market on Wednesdays, and three annual fairs. At present it consists of only one street, containing 400 inhabitants.

Queen Elizabeth founded a grammar school here, with a yearly salary of twenty pounds to be paid out of the Exchequer, for the maintenance of a master, who has a house in the church-yard, and privileged with four cows.

At this place Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards King Richard III. was born, in whose person, Fuller observes, "Ajax and Ulysses met; possessing eloquence to talk, and valour to fight." But if we may believe most historians, the defects of his mind were so great and so numerous, that it would be difficult to find in history a prince of so ill a character. It is certain he had a boundless ambition, which led him to commit crimes unbecoming a christian prince. To this disposition must be ascribed his treachery and cruelty.

Near this place, at Elton, is Elton-hall, the seat of the Earl of Carysfort. Proceeding south-west, we arrive at the village of Cotterstock, near which numerous Roman antiquities have been found, amongst which was discovered a tesselated pavement, very little defaced, about 20 feet square, having a border seven feet broad; the work in the centre, being about ten

feet square, consisting of reticulated and other patterns; in the midst of which were various ornaments. To the west of this, in a strata of loose earth, were dug up large nails, oyster shells, and fragments of sepulchral urns, with coins, &c. together with foundation stones, and a large block of free-stone, converted into a watering trough. Another pavement was discovered in the same field, in the year 1798, with several fragments of antiquity, but the whole much defaced.

In this village is Cotterstock-hall, the seat of Lady Booth, which was built by a Mr. Norton, a friend of Dryden; and here that poet composed his fables, and spent the two last summers of his life.

At the distance of about two miles beyond Tansor, we pass through OUNDLE, a neat market town, pleasantly situated on a sloping ground, on the north side of the river Nen, by which it is almost surrounded.

The church is a very handsome structure, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles, transept, and chancel, with a square tower: the latter displays five stories, with an octagonal turret terminating each angle, and is crowned by an hexagonal crocketted spire: the tower is thirty-five yards in height, and thence to the top of the spire measures thirty-two yards.

Near the church is a free grammar-school, erected in pursuance of the will of Sir William Laxton, a native of this place, grocer in London, and lord-mayor in the year 1544, and who died in 1556. He bequeathed estates for the endowment of this as well as an alms-house, both which establishments he placed under the superintendance of the Grocers' company in London. The following incription is placed over the door of the school-house:

" Undella natus, Londini parta labore
Laxtonus possuit, senibus puerisq; levamen."

Which is thus translated by Fuller:

" At Oundle born, what he did get
In London, with great pain,
Laxton to old and young hath set,
A comfort to remain."

Nicholas Latham, who was upwards of fifty years rector of Barnwell St. Andrews, (a village about two miles to the south-east), endowed a charity school at this place, as likewise a guild, or hospital, for the reception of sixteen aged women, who are supported by a weekly allowance.

There are two bridges over the Nen, forming a communication with the roads to Thrapston and Yaxley; the latter, called the North Bridge, is worthy of notice, from the number of its arches, and the extensive causeway leading to it, formed on an arcade, which secures a passage during the time of flood. Oundle is situated 78 miles from London, and contains, according to the late population act, 460 houses, and 2279 inhabitants. Its market is on Saturday.

Four miles to the west of Oundle is the village of BENEFIELD, containing 180 houses, and 2150 inhabitants. This parish exhibits one of those geological phenomena, "which," says a modern writer, "have puzzled philosophers to ascertain the efficient cause, and constituted the subject of various conjecture, by the supporters of different systems respecting the true theory of the earth. About a furlong westward of the village, are nine of those cavities, here, and in the north of England, called *swallows;* but in the south and west, *swallet-holes;* through which the land-flood waters flow and disappear. These, found in various parts of the island, and almost in every described part of the globe, are supposed by some writers to be a kind of inland gulphs, that swallowed up the waters of the deluge; and by means of which that immense liquid body returned to the centre of the earth, and where it has ever since formed a grand subterraneous abyss. It is not the least singular circumstance attending these swallows, that they are generally found upon the tops of mountains, or, as in the present case, upon very *high* land. These, like most which have been discovered, are nearly circular holes, of various diameters; some having a perpendicular, and others an oblique descent, opening beneath

the apertures into large spaces, that contain several smaller caves, or conduits, through which the waters are evidently conveyed to some distant reservoir."

At the distance of two miles to the south-west of the village of Benefield is Firming Woods Hall, in the parish of Brigstock: it is the seat of the Ladies Fitzpatrick. The house, which stands on a pleasant lawn, is surrounded by fine masses of old woods, the demesne being a portion of Rockingham forest—part of the house having been the old forest lodge, to which several additions have been made by the present noble proprietor.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of two miles from Oundle we pass on our left BARNWELL ST. ANDREW, which derives its name from the following singular custom. Near the village are seven wells, in which, during the ages of superstition, it was usual to dip weakly infants, called *berns;* some presiding angel being supposed to communicate hidden virtues to the water, and mystical and puerile rites were performed at these springs, which were denominated *Pontes puerorum.* A blind devotion was then paid to wells, which occasioned a continual resort of persons, productive of great disorder; so that such pilgrimages were strictly prohibited by the clergy about the year 1290.

At this place, in the year 1132, a castle was erected by Reginald le Moine, which, after having at various periods received alterations and additions, became a noble baronial residence of the Montacute, and then of the Montague families; but being for a long time in an uninhabited state, it now forms a fine and singularly curious ruin. The remains at present consist of four round massy bastion towers, one standing at each angle of a quadrangular court, which was inclosed by walls three feet thick. Three of these connecting curtains are entire; but that on the western side is in a dilapidated state. On the south-east the grand gateway still remains, flanked by similar bastion towers. This fortress may be considered as a

rare specimen of the castellated form of building immediately subsequent to the Norman conquest. Barnwell-castle is now the seat of R. H. Oddy, esq.

About one mile to the south-west of the last-mentioned place, and on the right of our road, is the village of LILFORD, in the church of which are several handsome monuments, erected to the memory of the families of Elmes and Powys, successively lords of this manor.

To the north of this church is Lilford-house, the seat of Lord Lilford; it is situated on the swell of an elevated lawn, in the midst of well-wooded grounds, above a river, over which is thrown an extensive bridge of several arches. The mansion is a handsome structure, built by Arthur Elmes, esq. in the year 1635; but it has, since its erection, been much enlarged and improved by Sir Thomas Powis, afterwards lord of this manor. The principal front consists of a body, with a handsome vestibule, and square-headed windows; the two wings having circular ones; and the roof presents three ornamental gables, with a Venetian window in each, connected together by a balustrade, and the chimnies forming a massy arcade in the centre.

Two miles south-west from Lilford is ALDWINKLE, celebrated for having been the birth-place of that admirable poet, John Dryden, who was descended from a good family, and born here on the 9th of August, in the year 1631. He was educated at Westminster School, under the famous Dr. Busby; and during his residence there, he displayed a natural and rising genius by several productions, particularly "a poem on the death of Lord Hastings." Having completed himself in classical learning, he removed to Trinity college, Cambridge, where he prosecuted his studies with the greatest assiduity, and soon acquired the character of an excellent poet.

On the death of Sir William Davenant, in the year 1668, he was appointed poet-laureat, and historiographer to Charles the Second, soon after which, he

published his "Essay on Poesy." The following year he wrote a comedy, called "The Wild Gallant," which was performed at the Theatre-royal with great applause. He continued his pursuit after the muses for some years, and, besides a great number of poetical writings, produced no less than twenty-six new plays; of which, though some of them are very indifferent, many are allowed to possess a great deal of merit. However, his abilities as a dramatic writer, were publicly ridiculed by the Duke of Buckingham, in the celebrated comedy of the Rehearsal, who has there introduced him in the character of Bays. For this offence, Mr. Dryden took ample revenge, by soon after publishing his Absalom and Ahitophel, in which, with great energy of style and poignancy of satire, he lashed his antagonist under the name of Zimri.

At the commencement of the reign of James the Second he embraced the Roman Catholic Religion; but this, though it might establish him in the good graces of that prince, precluded him from the favour of the succeeding monarch; for being thereby rendered incapable of enjoying any public office, he was on the accession of King William deprived of his place of poet-laureat, and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Shadwell, against whom he soon after wrote his "Mac Flecno," a most inimitable satire.

The latter part of Mr. Dryden's life, as well as the former, was entirely devoted to the service of the muses; and his ode on St. Cecilia's day, his translation of Juvenal, Perseus, Virgil, Fresnoy's Art of Painting, and some parts of Ovid, were published at different times, and at no long intervals. His fables were his last performance, which, with his ode on St. Cecilia's Day, his Mac Flecno, and Absalom and Ahitophel, are generally esteemed the most finished of his productions.

He died on the first of May, 1701, in the seventieth year of his age; and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory by John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham.

Thomas Fuller, the celebrated ecclesiastic and historian, was born about the year 1608, in the contiguous parish of Aldwinkle St. Peter's, of which his father was rector. At twelve years of age he was sent to Queen's college, Cambridge, where he pursued his studies with such vigour, that he took the degree of master of arts in the year 1628, at so early an age that such a commencement was not within memory. During his residence he stood candidate for a vacant fellowship, but there being a statute of the college, whereby it was prohibited to have two fellows of the county of Northampton, he quitted his pretensions, though he was well assured of a dispensation from the strict limitation of that statute, to be obtained for him, as not willing to owe his advancement to an ill precedent, which might usher in more improper intrusions upon the privileges and laws of the college; he then transferred himself to Sidney college, and was soon after chosen minister of St. Bennet's parish in Cambridge. At the age of twenty-three, he was chosen a fellow of Sidney college, and was a prebendary of Salisbury; soon after he was presented to the rectory of Broad Windsor, Dorsetshire, where he married a young lady, by whom he had several children; but he afterwards removed to London, and was chosen lecturer of the Savoy church. During the Civil Wars he experienced many vicissitudes in life, for having attached himself to the king's party, and attended the army as chaplain to Sir Ralph, afterwards Lord Hopeton. At the Restoration, he was reinstated in the situations from which he had been cruelly ousted; and then wrote "The Church History of Britain," which was published in folio, 1655. He also wrote another voluminous work, intitled "The Worthies of England," which was published by his son in the year 1661. He was also author of "Abel Redivivas; "The History of the Holy War," &c. &c. Of these works it is remarked by Granger, that the "Church History" is the most erroneous; the "Pisgah Sight," the most

exact; and his "History of the Worthies," the most estimable. About the time of his writing the "Church History," he was presented to the living of Cranford in Middlesex. He died on the 15th of August, in the year 1661, aged 54.

About one mile to the south of Aldwinkle St. Peters, is Lowick or Luffwick, in the church of which are several brasses, bearing very ancient inscriptions; as also some beautiful monuments. The church is a large handsome building, and appears to have been built in the sixteenth century: the pinnacles, windows, doors, and stalls are all highly ornamented, and the latter particularly presents much curious and ludicrous carving.

The manorial mansion of this parish, Drayton-house, is situated about a mile to the south-west of the village, and is a noble antiquated structure; it is built on the ruins of an ancient castle, and consists of a noble front, with lofty towers at each end, surmounted by turrets and lantern cupolas. It is supposed to have been erected about the latter end of Henry the Sixth's reign, by Henry Green, esq. who was twice sheriff of this county. Here is a considerable collection of pictures and portraits, by some of the most eminent masters. The present estate, house, &c. were bequeathed, by the will of Lady Betty Germaine, in the year 1771, to Lord George Sackville, who then took the name of Germaine. This nobleman was particularly distinguished in the battle of Minden, and on many other occasions; from him Drayton devolved to his son, Viscount Sackville: the present possessor is the Duke of Dorset.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Oundle, we pass through the small village of Thorp Waterville, three miles beyond which we arrive at Thrapston, a small market town, situated on the southern bank of the Nen, containing, according to the late returns 159 houses, and 854 inhabitants. The houses in general are well built, and a handsome stone bridge of several arches crosses the

Nen, by which a considerable trade is carried on to Lynn, Northampton, and to various other towns in its course. "At the very end of Thrapston-bridge (says Leland) stands ruins of a very large *hermitage*, and principally well builded, but of late discovered and suppressed."

Here is no particular manufactory carried on: the poor are principally employed in spinning jersey, which they send to the manufactories at Kettering.

There are two annual fairs, as mentioned in our list, as also a large weekly market on Tuesdays, which is equal to either of the fairs on the first Tuesday after Michaelmas. It is the largest hog market in the country; there is likewise a considerable trade in corn and coleseed; it is also well stocked with butchers' meat, of the most excellent kind. They have sea-fish from the Norfolk coast, and fresh water-fish from Wittlesea Mere, three times a week; but there are no certain days.

An annual court-leet and court-baron is held here, which has a power of appointing a constable; a third-bearer, or more properly a third-borough, bread-weighers and ale-tasters, whose office it is to see that the bread, butter, and every marketable commodity is good, and of just weight; they have also a power to take cognizance of the weights and measures in shops and ale-houses. This court has likewise a power of electing a clerk of the market, but in this instance it does not exercise its authority.

There is likewise a court held here for the honour of Gloucester fee, under the Duke of Buccleugh and Lord Beaulieu. It appoints a constable for Thrapston, who never acts unless the constable and third-borough of the manor court are out of the way, and then his authority extends no farther than to certain houses, which are within the fee, which is only one side of the street. This court likewise appoints a constable, ale-tasters, and hay-ward, for Lowick; constable for Woodford; constable for Stanion, near Kettering; constable for Little Addington; constable for Thing-

don or Finnedon, near Wellingborough; constable for Aldwinkle St. Peter's; constable for Ringstead; constable for Raunds; constable for Cranford St. Andrew; for Burton Lattimer, near Kettering, a constable, field-searchers, third-borough, bread-weighers, ale-tasters, and hay-ward; and for Catworth hamlet, in Huntingdonshire, a constable. Here is also a court held for the hundred of Navisford, of which the Duke of Buccleugh and Lord Beaulieu are the lords.

All these courts have a power to mulct their suitors for non-attendance, and for other misdemeanors; and in default of payment, may levy the same by distress on the goods of the offenders.

Morton says, "Thrapston is not to be passed by without observation; not for its trade and buildings, but for this, that it is surrounded with a most pleasant country, where they have water, air, and soil, that are exceeded by none. It is at due distance from the woods; and in a word enjoys all the natural advantages that can well be wished for, by any gentleman, who is pleased to entertain himself with the innocent delights of a country life."

The north-east, east, south, and north-west country round is open, and gives the traveller a charming view. On an eminence, half a mile to the south-east of Thrapston, at a single *coup d'œil*, you may see thirty-six church-spires. All the northern parts around are covered with woods, principally the Duke of Buccleugh's, late Montague. Here is also a beautiful range of meadows and pastures, perhaps not to be equalled in England for length; they stretch uninterrupted, from Peterborough to Northampton, which is nearly thirty miles in length, and in some places are near two miles in breadth; the land rich, the grass fine, and the cattle which feed on them scarcely to be numbered: the population in 1821, was 854.

About two miles and a half to the south-west of Thrapston, is the village of WOODFORD, where Lord

St. John had a handsome house, which commanded an extensive prospect; but something disgusting him, he pulled it down, and sold the materials. Near the village are three hills in a row, supposed to have been cast up over the bodies of some eminent persons killed in the wars with the Romans, Danes, or Saxons.

Journey from Duddington to Higham Ferrers; through Kettering.

On leaving Duddington, a description of which has been already given, we proceed southerly, and at the distance of two miles, we pass on our left Fineshed or Fineshade Abbey, originally styled St. Mary-Castle-Hymel Priory, from its occupying the site of an ancient fortress, called Castle-Hymel, erected by one of the family of Engaine; but dismantled so early as the reign of King John. Within the castle moat, a monastery for black canons was founded by Richard Engaine; the annual revenues of which, from a survey taken in the year 1535, amounted to 72*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* This with the priory were granted in exchange for lands in Devonshire to John Lord Russel; from whom by purchase they passed to Sir Robert Kirkham, knt. A mansion erected on the site, displays some faint traces of the original structure in columns, arches, and vaulted roofs; Fineshade Abbey is at present the residence of the Hon. J. Monckton.

One mile to the west of Fineshade Abbey, on the right of our road, is Laxton-hall, the seat of G. F. Evans, esq. who among various alterations and improvements on his estates at this place, erected several new and comfortable cottages for the humble tenants of the village. The mansion-house has been lately rebuilt, and is now the residence of Lady Carberry.

About half a mile to the south of the last-mentioned place in our road is the village of Laxton, a little to the east of which, is Blatherwich-hall, situated in the parish of the same name, and the resi-

dence of Stafford O'Brien, esq.; it is a fine old mansion, standing in a small park, the entrance gateway to which has a balustrade, decorated with various statues.

Near three miles to the north-west of Laxton is the village of Harringworth, formerly noted for a fine seat belonging to the noble family of the Zouches, who flourished in the reign of James I.; but the family becoming extinct, the house has been pulled down, and the fine Gothic chapel, in which the family were interred, is now in ruins.

At the distance of one mile beyond Laxton we pass through the village of Bulwick, about three miles to the west of which is Gretton, in the church of which are several monuments to the memory of the Hatton family; and to the south-east of this village stands Kirby-hall, the property of G. F. Hatton, esq. This noble mansion is said to have been erected by the celebrated Sir Christopher Hatton, lord chancellor in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; though Bridges, in his history of this county, observes, that it "was built by the Stafford family, as appeareth from their crest, a boar's head out of a ducal coronet, and Humphre Stafford on several parts of it." It is a large rectangular edifice, the porch of the inner court consisting of three orders of columns one above another. Here was once a fine collection of paintings, statues, &c. and the house was formerly esteemed one of the best furnished houses in the kingdom; the gardens were likewise adorned with numerous exotic and indigenous plants; a wilderness in the park contained nearly every species of English trees; but the paintings and furniture have been sold, and the garden and grounds almost neglected, indeed the whole is fast going to ruin and decay.

In the church of Deene, situated a short distance to the east of the last-mentioned place, are several handsome monuments, commemorative of different branches of the Brudenel family; and at the verge of Rockingham forest is Deene-park, the seat of

James Brudenel, Earl of Cardigan. The park, which is large, is well stocked with deer, and abounds with pleasing though not very extensive views. The house is a low embattled structure, with a turret terminating each wing: the apartments however are spacious and lofty, particularly the hall, which is a very magnificent room, with a fine timbered roof, the height reaching to the top of the building. The windows are emblazoned with the arms of Brudenel and Montague; and the walls embellished by numerous family portraits: in the library is a good collection of foreign books, and many topographical and other manuscripts, principally relating to this county, collected from records preserved in the Tower, by the first Lord Brudenel, during his confinement, by command of the parliament, for his loyalty and attachment to the cause of Charles the First.

Returning to our road, at the distance of three miles and a half from Bulwick, we pass through Great Weldon, a small town, containing, according to the late returns, 123 houses, and 567 inhabitants. It has a handsome market-house, over which are the session-chambers, supported by columns of the Tuscan order. This building was erected by Lord Viscount Hatton, and is of the best stone of the excellent quarry near it; these quarries produce ragstone, a species of marble, which takes a high polish, and is in great esteem for chimney-pieces, slabs, &c. and it is said that St. Paul's cathedral, which was destroyed in the fire of London, was constructed of Weldon stone. In a corn field, called Chapel field, in the year 1738, a Roman pavement was found, which measured ninety-six feet in length, and ten in breadth, within a kind of gallery, one hundred Roman feet long in front, sided by several rooms, about thirty feet square, in which were similar pavements; the whole structure was a double square, one hundred feet by fifty. There were a great number of coins of the lower empire discovered on the same spot, there are likewise foundations of a stone

wall; but the superstructure appears to have been timber, and burnt down; the pavement being burnt in several places. It stands on an eminence, fronting the west, on a declivity to the river Willey. Higher up the hill are more extensive foundations, supposed to have been a town. Weldon has a weekly market on Wednesdays.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of two miles from Weldon, we pass on our right the village of Stanion, about two miles and a half to the south-east of which is the village of Brigstock, where there is a large mansion, formerly belonging to the Duke of Montague. By a singular custom of this manor, a modification is constituted, that if any man dies, seized of copyhold lands, or tenements, which come to him by descent in fee, his youngest son is legal heir: but if such lands were purchased by him, then the eldest succeeds to the estate.

About three miles from Stanion, on the left of our road, is the village of Geddington, in the centre of which stands one of those elegant crosses erected by Edward the First to the memory of his affectionate queen Eleanor. This is the most perfect of the remaining crosses; the base on which it is raised, consists of a triangular pedestal of eight steps; the first story is decorated with a profusion of sculpture, of roses and various foliage, and is likewise charged with shields of arms; the second story contains three niches, with crocketed pinnacles, in which are female figures; and the upper story is decorated with various tabernacle work, pinnacles, &c.

The church of Geddington contains some ancient relics, among which are three stone seats, with a piscina in the south wall. The altar is raised on two steps, on which are some inscriptions in old letters, extending the whole width of the chancel.

On Castle Close in this parish, formerly stood a royal palace, at which in the year 1188, a parliament was held, for the purpose of raising money to carry on a crusade against the Holy land.

One mile to the south of Geddington, and on the left of the road, is Boughton-house, long the seat of the Montague family; of whom the first who obtained any distinguished titles was Ralph, created Viscount Monthermer, and Earl of Montague, by William the Third in 1689; and Duke of Montague by Queen Anne 1705; he died in 1708, and the titles expired in 1749 with his son John, who almost new built the house. This place has been noted formerly for its lawns and gardens; the latter are said to have comprised 100 acres and 130 perches of land. These were ornamented with various water-works, a canal one mile in length, also cascades, fountains, parterres, terraces, &c. The house contains a large collection of pictures; some of the first class, among them two cartoons by Raffaele. One of these, a representation of *Ezekiel's Vision*, is a grand and impressive composition. The other, called "The Holy Family," consists of eight figures and an angel. Here was also a half-length in armour, of Lord Strafford, who was beheaded in 1641. Since the death of the late Duke, both the house and gardens have been much neglected, and though the former contains a large collection of pictures, yet even these have suffered from the same cause.

About one mile to the south-west of Boughton, in our road, is the village of Weekley, in the church of which are a few old monuments, recording the memory of some of the Montagues of Boughton. Near the south side of the church is an hospital for seven poor men; and at the eastern extremity of the village, are traces of a moat, &c. where an old castellated manor-house is said to have formerly stood.

About half a mile to the south-east of the last-mentioned village is Warketon, particularly noted for the very sumptuous monuments, which are preserved in the church or rather chancel, which was built with four coved recesses in the walls, to contain as many marble monuments, though at present only three are occupied. The first, which was designed by Roubiliac, was erected to the memory of John, Duke of Mon-

tague, who died in July 1749, aged 55 years. The second by the same artist, is raised to the memory of Mary, Duchess of Montague, daughter of John, Duke of Marlborough. She died in May, 1751, aged 61. The third monument is of a most costly and splendid kind, was designed and executed by Peter Matthias Vangelder, of London; and finished in the year 1781. It records the memory of Mary Duchess of Montague, daughter and heiress of John Duke of Montague, who died on the first of May 1775, aged 63 years.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Weekley, we arrive at KETTERING, a populous town, pleasantly situated on a small stream that runs into the Nen. The houses in general are well built, and the hall where the sessions for the district are held is a neat edifice. Here is a free school for all the boys belonging to the parish, supported by houses and lands of the yearly value of sixty pounds; here is also a small charity school for girls to learn to read, spin, and knit; and an hospital, for six poor widows. The church has a handsome tower and spire at the west end; the tower consists of three stories, in each of which are large windows, of several compartments: the angles are flanked with double buttresses; and at each corner is raised a small hexangular embattled turret, the whole being surmounted by a handsome hexagonal crocketed spire, with three windows, diminishing in their size upwards, on the alternate sides. The interior comprises a nave, north and south aisles, and a chancel: at the back of the screen, which divides the north aisle from the chancel, are the figures of a man, with four sons, and a female, with four daughters; over these is the following incription in black letter: "Orate pro aiabus *Willielmi Burgis* et Johanne Alicie et Elizabeth uxorum ejus et animabus omnium benefactorum suorum, Amen." Here is likewise inscribed the following quaint promise: "whoso redis mi name, shal have Godys blyssing and our lady; and my wyfis doo sey the same."

The manufacture of the town is sorting, combing, spinning, and weaving, of tammies, and lastings of different sorts, all of which are sold white as they come out of the looms. About 500 weavers are employed.

By the returns made to Parliament in the year 1821, the number of houses appears to have been 781, and inhabitants 3668, were reported as being employed in various trades. A weekly market is kept on Saturdays.

Kettering in the time of the Saxons was called Cytringan and Kateringes; and in the year 976 the lordship was granted by King Edwy to his servant Elfsige.

Pursuing our road, on leaving Kettering, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and at the distance of about one mile and a half, pass on our left the village of Barton Seagrave, where was formerly a castle, the residence of the Seagrave family. Sir Nicholas de Seagrave, who was marshal of England in the reign of Edward the Second, obtained a licence from that monarch to convert his manor-house at Barton, into a castle, no vestiges of which however now remain except the moat to the west of the church, which edifice displays some features of very ancient architecture.

About one mile beyond Barton Seagrave we pass through the village of Burton Latimer, two miles beyond which on the right of our road is Finedon or Thingdon, a pleasant and respectable village, in which is a large handsome church, having a lofty tower and a spire. West of the church is Finedon-hall, a large mansion belonging to Sir William Dolben, bart. but at present occupied by the Earl of Egmont.

Two miles to the south-east of the last mentioned place is the village of Irthlingborough, where was formerly a college for six regular canons and four clerks, founded by John Pyel, in the reign of Richard the Second, and granted by Queen Elizabeth to Edward Downing and P. Ashton. Of this building

there is now only a fragment remaining between the body and the tower of the church. The tower, which is separated from the church by the ruins of the collegiate buildings, is square for two stories, where an octangular part rises; and the church consists of a nave, two aisles, a transept, and a lofty spacious chancel. At the upper end of each aisle is a chantry chapel, and in the chancel are stalls with angels and various figures carved in wood under the seats.

In the middle of the village stands a stone cross, the shaft of which, raised upon steps, is thirteen feet in height, and is the standard for adjusting and regulating the provincial pole, that the portions or doles, as they are here called, are measured by in the adjacent meadows.

One mile and a half to the east of Irthlingborough, and on the left of our road, is Stanwick, a small village, formerly remarkable for a spring, called Finswell, which after running above ground for a distance of twelve perches, suddenly disappeared. Some fragments of a Roman tessellated pavement were some years since discovered at the extremity of a field called Meadows Furlong, in this parish.

This village, in his youth, was the residence of Richard Cumberland, esq. who published "Memoirs of Himself," in two volumes, octavo, with portraits.

About one mile eastward from Stanwick is Raunds, a village pleasantly situated on an eminence, which abounds with springs, one of which is of a petrifying quality. The church is a curious ancient building, displaying some interesting architectural and ornamental details; it consists of a large body with two aisles, a spacious chaucel, and at the eastern end of the south aisle is a chauntry, called St. Peter's Chapel. At the western end is a lofty steeple; some of the windows in which are of the lancet shape, with clustered columns.

Near the north side of the church is the base of a stone cross, one of the steps to which is ornamented

with quaterfoils and pannels, and the shaft contains some remains of sculpture.

At Mill Cotton, a hamlet in the parish of Ringstead, a village about one mile and a quarter to the north of Raunds, are the remains of a square entrenchment, consisting of lofty earthen ramparts, &c. and, in ploughing, various Roman coins have been turned up; and near the foss was found an urn, containing ashes; and, at Mallow Cotton, not far distant, ruins of numerous buildings have been discovered.

Returning from this digression, at the distance of about five miles from Burton Latimer, we arrive at Higham Ferrers, a clean and pleasant town, and a royal manor, as part of the duchy of Lancaster.—The town is small, consisting of two streets, a lane, and what is here called the market-*stead*, in which stands a cross, bearing a cube at top, and on the four sides are carved in stone, different figures, emblematic of the crucifixion.

Higham Ferrers, which signifies the *high house of Ferrers*, derives its name from a castle on a rising ground, anciently in the possession of the family of Ferrers, though it was probably built by Thomas Earl of Lancaster, son of Edmund, younger son of Henry the Third, who obtained this lordship in the fiftieth year of that monarch's reign. Northward of the church is a spot called the Castle-yard, the site of this castle, the ground of which is divided into two parts by a deep foss, running from east to west.—That on the south side contains about two acres; the only remains are hollows, heaps of ruins, and foundations of walls. The northern division, both in extent and strength, appears to have been the most considerable work; it comprises nearly four acres, having on the east side a very large moat, about fifty feet wide, and five hundred feet long, and another on the south side, of similar dimensions.

The church, which is a handsome structure, consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles, to the south and

north: those of the chancel are divided from it by screens, decorated with carving. On each side the chancel are ten stalls, on which are carved various fanciful and emblematic devices. At the west end of the nave, on a handsome embattled tower, is raised a finely-proportioned hexagonal spire, with crockets running up the angles; the greater part of the present spire is not two centuries old; for the old spire, and part of the tower falling down, it was rebuilt about the year 1632, by subscription, to which Archbishop Laud appears to have been a liberal contributor. The western front of the tower displays some curious architectural features: at the base is a pointed arched doorway, with two openings beneath flattened arches; the mouldings surrounding them are charged with sculpture of figures, foliage, &c. Immediately over these are ten circular compartments, or pannels of basso-relievo, representing so many passages from the New Testament.

Under an arch in the chancel is a free-stone monument, covered with a marble slab, having a brass inlaid, on which is the portrait of a man, bearing on his breast this inscription: "Fili Dei miserere mei." Above and on the sides were formerly 18 figures of apostles and saints, most of which have, however, been sacrilegiously removed: round the frieze of the arch is, "Suscipiat me Christus, qui vocavit me.—In sinu Abrahe angeli deducant me:" and on the marble, beneath the portrait, "Hic jacet *Laurentius de Sto Mauro*, quondam rector istius ecce cujus anime propicietur Deus." In the north part of the chancel, upon a marble, is the following inscription, to the memory of the parents of Archbishop Chichele: "Hic jacet *Thomas Chichele, qui obiit* XXV° die mensis Februarii anno dni. millmo CCCC°, et Agnes uxor ejus, quorum animabus propitietur Deus. Amen."

In the tenth year of Henry the Fifth, that prince granted a licence to Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury, to found a college here (this being the

place of his birth) for eight secular canons, four clerks, and six choristers. It was incorporated by the name of the College of the Blessed Virgin, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and St. Edward the Confessor. The bishop endowed it with lands in his life time, and these were increased after his death by his brothers Robert and William, Aldermen of London, his executors. By a survey made of the possessions in the year 1735, it was found to have an annual revenue of 204*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* but after different deductions, one of which was a penny a day to thirteen poor persons to pray for the soul of the founder, a clear income remained of 156*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* per annum. This, with the house, in the thirty-fifth year of Henry the Eighth's reign, were surrendered to the crown. The building, which appears to have been in a quadrangular form, but now in a ruinous state, was some time since converted into an inn. A portion of the revenues form the endowment of the present free-school, the house of which is a handsome stone building, situated at the north-west end of the church.

Archbishop Chicheley also founded and endowed an *alms* or *bead* house, for twelve poor men and one woman, with a daily allowance to each person of one penny: the house is situated on the south side of the church.

In the reign of Philip and Mary this town was made a borough and corporation, consisting of a mayor, steward, recorder, seven aldermen, thirteen capital burgesses, and commonality, with power to send one member to parliament; the elective franchise being in all the inhabitants, exclusive of such as receive alms.

The number of houses, by the returns under the population act, is 153, and inhabitants 877. From its formerly having had three weekly markets, it was probably then much more populous: those kept on Mondays and Thursdays have long been disused,

and the remaining one, held on Saturdays, is much decayed.

About three miles to the south of Higham Ferrers, is Higham-park, which anciently belonged to the Dukes of Lancaster. The mansion erected by one of them was standing in Norden's time, and then inhabited by a Mr. Pemberton, whose family had considerable possessions, and were seated here for several generations. The present demesne appears to have been originally imparked in the reign of Henry the Second, while the manor belonged to the crown; it was afterwards granted to the family of Long, and is now disparked.

Journey from Rockingham to Bozeat; through Wellingborough.

Rockingham is a very ancient town, situated on the river Welland, on the northern borders of the county; though at present it is but a small town, it was of great repute under the Saxons, who, finding plenty of iron mines in its neighbourhood, employed men to work them, and the refuse of the iron ore is still found in the fields. These iron works are mentioned in Doomsday-book, but from that time seem to have been neglected, owing probably to the unsettled state of affairs occasioned by the Norman invasion. William the Conqueror built a lofty castle here, which occupies the top of a hill, on the declivity of which the town is built: this fortress was an occasional residence of our early kings, for several dispatches, in the eighth year of Edward the Third, bear date at this place, which is likewise celebrated for the council of nobility, bishops, and clergy, who sat here in the year 1094, for the purpose of terminating the dispute between William Rufus and Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, respecting the right of investiture and obedience to the see of Rome.—This castle was strongly fortified with double embattled walls, numerous towers, and other bulwarks, and

Carlton Hall Northamp^sh

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SOUTH WEST VIEW of RUSHTON HALL, NORTHAMPTON SHIRE.

farther secured by a large and strong keep. In the time of Leland, who has described it, many of the works were standing, but in a very decayed condition; and little of the building now remains, except its grand entrance arched gateway, flanked by two massy bastion towers. Within the court is a spacious fine old house, belonging to Lord Sondes.

Part of the body, together with the tower, was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell, during the siege of the castle, which was garrisoned by the king for the proprietor, Sir Lewis Watson, afterwards created Lord Rockingham.

The town of ROCKINGHAM is situated 83 miles from London, and consists of one street, containing 57 houses, and 278 inhabitants; its market is on Thursday.

The Forest of Rockingham, in which this town is situated, is esteemed one of the best in England; it originally extended over the large tract of land between the rivers Welland and Nen, which, in the times of barbarism, was inhabited by the Britons; but when the Romans became masters of these parts, they cut down a great number of the trees, and converted the land into tillage and pasture. According to a survey taken in the year 1641, this forest was fourteen miles in length, from the west end of Middleton woods to the town of Wansford, and five miles in breadth, from Brigstock to the Welland; but it is now dismembered into parcels, by the interposition of fields and towns, and is divided into three bailiwicks. On its skirts are woods, in which are made great quantities of charcoal, and every year many waggon-loads of it are sent to Peterborough and other places.

About one mile to the west of Rockingham is COTTINGHAM, a considerable village.

On leaving Rockingham our road lies southerly, and, at the distance of four miles, we pass on our left the village of Oakley Magna, in the parish of which stood Pipewell Abbey, founded by William Butevi-

leyn, for monks of the Cistertian order, and was very amply endowed, as appears from a survey made in the year 1535, when its annual revenues amounted to 347*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* Near the woods of East and West Grange, foundations of old buildings point out the site of the monastery; but no other vestiges are now remaining.

At the distance of about two miles to the south-west of Oakley, on the right of our road, is the village of RUSHTON, in the church of which is a handsome monument to the memory of Charles Viscount and Baron Cullen, of the county of Donegal, in Ireland, who died in the year 1802; and Sophia Viscountess Cullen, who died in the same year. This monument was erected in the year 1802, as a tribute of filial affection from their son, the Hon. William Cockayne, who died at his seat in this place, on the 8th of October, 1809.

The above-mentioned seat, called Rushton-hall, is beautifully situated on a gentle declivity, sloping to the river Ise, which passing under a handsome bridge of two arches, gives a pleasing effect to the diversified plantations. The Hon. William Cockayne, second son of the late Viscount Cullen, had made several alterations, and had projected many more; but his premature death prevented the fulfilment of his tasteful and spirited improvements. It is now the seat of Mrs. Cockayne Medlicott.

Two miles to the south-west of the last-mentioned place is ROTHWELL, or Rowell, a town of considerable antiquity, and pleasantly situated on the declivity of a hill, from whence there is an extensive prospect. It was formerly a considerable market-town, but the market has been long discontinued; the market-house is, however, still standing, and, from the style of the building, is an object of curiosity. It was begun by Sir Thomas Tresham; but, in consequence of his death, was never completed; the third, or upper story, which formed part of the plan, not having been built. The remains of this

structure, which is fast going to decay, consists of a square basement story, with large pointed entrance arches to an area, constituting a market-place; over which is a suite of rooms, with wide square-headed windows. In the north-front is an advanced gateway, reaching to the height of the building, the whole ornamented with pilasters of the Doric order, which support an entablature; and on the architrave, under the cornice, are shields charged with the arms of several families of this county, and the following inscription round the frieze: "*Thomæ Tresami militis fuit hoc opus in gratiam dulcis patriæ fecit suæ tribusque Northamtoniæ vel maxime hujusque vicini sibi pagi. Nihil præter bonum commune quæsivit, nihil præter decuz perenne amicorum. Male qui interpretator dignus haud tanto est bono. An. Dom. milessimo quingentessimo septuagessimo septimo.*" This Thomas Tresham received the honour of knighthood at Kenilworth-castle from Queen Elizabeth; but being zealously attached to the Romish persuasion, he incurred the displeasure of the court, and he appears to have been several times taken into custody for recusancy, and from his last detainder was discharged in the year 1597. He studied architecture, and displayed considerable taste in that elegant science; besides this market-hall he built Liveden-house, now demolished, and probably several others. He died in the third year of James the First.

Previous to the Dissolution there was a priory at this place for Nuns of the Augustine order; the founder is not known, but is supposed to have been one of the Clare family, whose successors in the manor appear upon record as its patrons.

In Rothwell church are several monuments to the memory of the Tresham, Lant, Humble, Lane, and Hill families. Against the north wall of the chancel is a white marble monument, having an arched pediment with urns, supported by columns. A tablet beneath has an incription sacred to the memory of Andrew

Lant, esq.; of Thorpe Underwood, lord of Rothwell Manor, who died January 16, 1694; and Judith his wife, who died December 31, 1705.

Rothwell is situated 78 miles from London, and contains, according to the late population act, 412 houses, and 1845 inhabitants.

In a monthly publication in 1821, the following letter was addressed to the editor, respecting the church here.

"Respected Sir,—Passing lately through Northamptonshire, I was invited to accompany a friend in a visit to the church at Rowell, a village on the road betwixt Market Harbro' and Kettering, distant from the former 7 miles, and from the latter 4. The church, from its curiously carved seats, &c. its places for holy water, and what is there called a stone pulpit, bears evident marks of great antiquity. But what most arrested my attention, was a spacious vault under the west end.

"Attracted by this, a venerable keeper, myself and friend, each being furnished with a lighted candle, descended by a winding staircase to a considerable depth; where, to my astonishment, I soon found myself surrounded by a pile or wall of human skulls, and other bones. The vault I thought to be about ten yards long, and from four to five broad; and the pile of skulls, extending all round, except at the small door by which we entered, was in some places nearly two yards high, and from one to two in breadth. The strikingly exact and imposing manner in which they were all arranged, together with the equal state of preservation they all seemed to be in, as far as I could examine them, led me to conclude that the solemn pile had been the work of some one given time, and of the same individuals; and the more especially so, as, upon inquiry, I was informed, that though there were various documents in the church books for several hundred years back, yet there was nothing respecting them; and that no one could be found,

who knew any thing, either when, or by whom, they were placed there. The only conjectures in the village were, that there had been some desolating disease, or some great battle fought near that place, and that they had been collected and preserved at that time. The latter conjecture appeared to obtain most credit with the people. As to the number, I could not form any tolerably correct idea, but it must be very great."

Rothwell was numbered among the ancient market-towns of this county, but its market has long since declined. The ruins of a beautiful antique market-house of stone, with Latin inscriptions on all sides, remained in 1806, but had been divested of its roof many preceding years. According to tradition, this town was depopulated by the plague, and its market suspended by that calamity, and never restored; but no date is given of this event. Tammies and calimancoes used to be manufactured here.

Regaining our road, at the distance of five miles from Oakley Magna, we pass through the town of Kettering, and three miles farther through the village of Isham, one mile and a half to the north-west of which is Pitchley, a small pleasant village, noted for a very great fox-hunt, kept here in the winter season. The pack is supplied by Earl Spencer, and a great number of gentlemen are subscribers, who are all accommodated, together with their attendants and horses, at the large and venerable mansion-house, kept by a Mr. Lane. This house was formerly the mansion of the Washbourne family, but for a series of years past, has belonged to the Knightleys, esqrs. of Fawsley, in this county. The ancient lords of this manor held it of the king by petit serjeantry, i. e. to furnish dogs at their own cost, to destroy the wolves, foxes, polecats, and other vermin, in the counties of Northampton, Rutland, Oxford, Essex and Bucks.

Two miles beyond Isham, in our road, is Harrowden Magna, an insignificant village, but formerly the resi-

dence of the noble family of Vaux for upwards of three centuries. During the bloody contention which sprang from the rival claims of the red and white rose, Sir Williams Vaux warmly espoused the cause of the unfortunate Henry, for which he was attainted on the accession of Edward, and his estates confiscated. They were, however, restored to his son Sir Nicholas, by Henry the Seventh, with whom he was a great favourite. The present manor-house, which is a spacious handsome edifice, has long stood unoccupied, and is the property of Earl Fitzwilliam, who inherits it from the late patriotic Marquis of Rockingham, by whose ancestor, the Hon. Thomas Wentworth, it was erected.

About one mile and a quarter beyond Harrowden we arrive at WELLINGBOROUGH, a large populous town, situated on a rising ground, and supposed to have received its name from the great number of springs that rise in its neighbourhood. It was formerly celebrated on account of its medicinal waters, which were esteemed efficacious in various disorders. The principal spring, denominated *Redwell*, issues out at the foot of the hill in an open field, about half a mile north-west of the town. The water is impregnated with a small portion of carbonate of iron, and is a light sparkling mild chalybeate: this spring was more resorted to formerly than at present. In the year 1626, it is said that King Charles, and his Queen, resided here in tents a whole season, for the benefit of drinking it pure at its source.

The name of this town being Saxon, implies the place was of some note in that period, when it appears to have been destroyed by the Danes; after the Conquest, it was constituted a market-town, by a charter from King John, at the petition of the monks of Crowland, who were then possessed of the manor. It is principally situated on a red sand-stone rock, of which material the houses are generally built. The town is disposed along the slope of a hill, nearly a mile to the north of the river Nen. Great part of

the houses are neatly built, having been erected subsequently to a dreadful fire, which happened in the year 1738; and which burnt with such violence, that in six hours it destroyed upwards of 800 houses.

The church is a large building, having a tower at the west end, surmounted with a handsome spire; the roofs of the aisles, chancel, and chantry chapels, are decorated with various carved work; and on each side the chancel are three stalls, like those in cathedral choirs. The eastern window is richly ornamented with tracery, and sculpture in stone; and the window-case is enriched with several heads, and emblematic figures; and in the window is some stained glass, with figures of the Virgin Mary, clad in a blue robe, with a crown on her head, and the infant Jesus in her lap.

Beneath the eastern end of the church is a crypt; and against the north wall of the chancel is a mural slab with this inscription: William Battey, Architect. All worldly fabrics are but vanity to heavenly buildings for eternity. Sepuls. Nov. 30, 1674, æt. 80. Formerly a considerable manufacture of worsted stuffs, as tammies, harrateens, &c. employed numbers of the inhabitants, but owing to war and other causes, it has declined many years since.

This church had formerly a guild to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, the revenues of which fraternity, amounting annually to 5*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* were in the second year of Edward the Sixth, appropriated towards the erection and endowment of a free grammar school. Here is likewise a large charity school, and two meeting houses for the public worship of independent dissenters.

As the town stands in an open corn country, its greatest trade is in corn, for which its market on Wednesdays is greatly improved, by the decay of that of Higham Ferrers, at four miles distance. It has also a considerable manufacture of lace.

According to the last returns made to Parliament, the number of houses in this town is 905, and the in-

habitants 4454. There has lately been erected a Town-hall, in which the business of the parish is transacted.

A little to the east of Wellingborough is a small village called Chester, where there was a Roman fortification, from the remains of which it appears to have been a place of great strength. It was of an oblong form, and encompassed with about twenty acres of ground. The bottom of the wall is about eight feet thick, and the out courses of the stone are laid flat-ways, but the inward endways. The river Nen runs under the western wall, among the ruins of which have been found two plain stone pillars of an oblong quadrangular form, and about four feet in length; it is supposed that they were sepulchral altars; but as they have not any inscriptions, it cannot with certainty be ascertained. Roman bricks and pavements have also been found here.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of three miles from Wellingborough we pass through the village of Wollaston, three miles to the west of which is the parish of Earl's Barton, the church of which is a singular and very curious example of ancient architecture: the tower is divided into four stories, each being constructed with upright stones, disposed like beams or wood-work, with the spaces between every two filled up with small stones, mortar, &c. The arches and columns are also peculiar; some of the former being very small, and formed by one stone; whilst the latter are larger at the centre than at their bases and capitals. The western door-way, that on the south side and a small one leading into the chancel, have all semicircular arches, with various ancient mouldings. Many of the interior parts are also entitled to the particular notice of the architectural antiquary. This church occupies part of the area of an ancient castle; and to the north are some deep ditches of the keep.

One mile to the west of Earl's Barton is the village of Ecton: in the parish of which is Ecton-house,

the seat of Samuel Isted, esq. The house is a handsome modern stone building, surrounded by pleasant plantations, and grounds of a diversified appearance.

One mile south from Ecton, across the river Nen, is the village of Cogenhoo, where, some years ago, a Roman urn was dug up, covered with a flat stone, containing a mixture of ashes and earth; several Roman coins were also found on the same spot, on which was a head of Faustina.

Returning to our road, at the distance of two miles from Wollaston, we arrive at Bozeat, a village, situated on the borders of Bedfordshire.

Nearly a mile to the westward of the last mentioned place is Easton Mauduit, where was formerly a large mansion belonging to the Yelvertons, but the house has been wholly destroyed. In the church are several curious monuments commemorative of different persons of that family. The church consists of a nave, two aisles, a chancel, and western tower; the latter being surmounted by a light tapering spire, which is connected to the tower by flying buttresses.

A little more than a mile to the west of Easton Mauduit is Castle Ashby, the princely seat of the Marquis of Northampton; it is situated near the northern extremity of Yardley chase, through which is a wide avenue of above three miles in length, directly to the south front of the mansion, which is a large pile, standing on the brow of a gentle eminence, and commanding to the north, east, and west a wide tract of inclosed grazing country. The house evidently occupies the site of a more ancient and probably castellated edifice; but no part of the present building was erected previous to the reign of Elizabeth: indeed it is said to have been began by Henry, Lord Compton, who was created a baron in the fourteenth year of that queen's reign; considerable additions have, however, been since made, and the house has been wholly renovated, and adapted to the comforts of refined society, by the present noble proprietor. This mansion surrounds a large qua-

drangular court; having a screen of two stories on the southern side, erected from a design by Inigo Jones: this screen consists of a piazza at bottom, and a long gallery over it. At the south-east and south-west angles of the court, are two lofty octangular towers, the parapets of which, as also the whole parapets of the court elevation, are formed by stones cut in the shape of letters; and ranged so as to repeat the following pious text: "NISI DOMINUS ŒDIFICAVERIT DOMUM IN VANUM LABORAVERUNT, QUI ŒDIFICANT EAM." In the balustrades of the turrets are the dates 1625 and 1635; marking the time when the screen was built, and the upper parts of the house finished: on the opposite side of the court to the entrance screen, is the great hall, a lofty handsome apartment, containing several family portraits, &c. and has a gallery at each end. In the other apartments are likewise numerous portraits, &c. among which is a very curious and finely painted head of the celebrated George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who was stabbed by Felton; and in the long gallery are portraits of John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Margaret his countess; these are painted on board, and are curious, as specimens of the art of painting, dresses, &c. in the time of Henry the Sixth. Talbot was a distinguished hero in the wars of France: and it is related of him that he was victorious in no less than forty battles; but was at length slain at the siege of Chastillon in the year 1453, aged eighty: and with him perished the good fortune of the English during that unhappy reign. Walpole ranks these two pictures among the most ancient examples of oil painting in England. The libraries contain many curious books, and in a large drawing-room up stairs is an immense chimney-piece of marble, dug from a quarry in this county. The cellars are large, lofty, and peculiarly adapted to contain a vast stock of ales, wines, &c.; they are formed like the crypts of churches, being supported on columns, and ribbed arches.

The plantations, with a large lake in the park, were formed by Brown; and the church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands in them, at a small distance from the house. It is remarkable for its neatness, an ancient curious porch on the north side, and an old altar tomb, with a statue of a cross-legged knight in chain armour.

About one mile to the north-west of Castle Ashby, is Whiston, a village entitled to particular notice for its elegant and uniform church, which stands proudly elevated on the brow of a hill, embosomed in trees, and completely detached from any other buildings. It consists of a nave, two aisles, chancel, and western tower, the whole of which is built in one uniform style. The tower is handsome, and appropriately decorated with pannelling, graduated buttresses, windows with tracery, and clustered pinnacles of four at each angle, with crockets, &c. In the third tier are the arms of Henry the Eighth, beneath a double-arched window, with a square head. The nave is divided from the aisles by four arches, on each side, supported by clustered columns, with pannelling, tracery, and shields in the spandrils; the south porch is similarly ornamented. Some interesting monuments are preserved within this shell of fine architecture. Bridges appears to have discovered an inscription among the fragments of painted glass in the windows, which states that the church was erected by Anthony Catesby, esq. lord of the manor, Isabel his wife, and John their son, in the year 1534. This was a time when church architecture was approaching its dissolution; but this building does not display any marks of it, for the whole is in the true and almost best style of the Tudor age.

Horton-house, the seat of Sir George William Gunning, bart. K. B. is situated about three miles to the south of Castle Ashby. This house is a large handsome structure, with a fine front towards the east; it is seated in a park, which abounds with noble

forest trees, and enlivened with a broad piece of water. This estate has been successively possessed by the Salisburys, Parrs, Lanes, and Montagues, from whom it descended to the Earl of Halifax, who was succeeded by Lord Huntingbroke, and he by the present proprietor.

In Horton church is a fine monument to the memory of William Lord Parr, uncle to Catherine, the last Queen to Henry the Eighth. His lordship is represented in alabaster, recumbent, with his lady, Mary Salisbury, by his side; in right of whom he became possessed of this manor. He is dressed in armour, with a collar SS, and a rose at the end, and his head resting on an helmet. He was called to the house of Peers on the second marriage of his niece, was appointed her chamberlain, and during the queen's regency, on the king's expedition to France in the year 1554, he was nominated one of her majesty's privy council. He died in the year 1546, leaving four daughters, the eldest of whom conveyed, by marriage with Sir Ralph Lane, the estate into his family.

On the floor are the figures of Roger Salisbury, between his two wives, in brass. He died in the year 1492, first owner of his name of this estate; whose grand-daughter became mistress of it on the death of her father William.

Journey from Bowden Parva to Grafton Regis; through Northampton.

Bowden Parva is a small village situated on the northern borders of this county, the river Welland dividing it from Leicestershire; it is situated 81 miles from London.

About two miles eastward from this village is Dingley-hall, late the residence of Henry Hungerford Holditch, esq.; it is a handsome mansion, partly erected in the ancient and partly in the modern style. The entrance to one of the fronts is by a noble portico, the entablature of which, supported by columns

of the Ionic order, has on it several inscriptions, and the date 1558. The house is situated in a small park.

On leaving Bowden Parva our journey lies southerly, and at the distance of two miles we pass through the village of OXENDON MAGNA, the church of which is remarked by Moreton, for its echo returning to the west part of the hill, near 700 feet off, thirteen syllables, but on the south side fewer.

About one mile and a half to the north-east of Oxendon is the village of Braybrook, where was formerly a castle; for, according to Leland, "Braybrok Castelle, upon Wiland water, was made and embatelid, by licens that one Braybrok, a nobleman in these days, did obteine. Mr. Griphin is now owner of it; he is a man of fair landes." It stood low, and was double-ditched, and probably built in the reign of Edward the First; since, (says Bridges) in the 32nd year of that reign, Thomas Latimer obtained licence to embattle his manor house there. Part of it was accidentally blown up while it belonged to the Griffins, of whom Edward, son of Sir Edward Griffin, treasurer of the chamber of Charles the Second, was created in the fourth James the Second, Lord Griffin of Braybrook. On that king's abdication he attended him to France, and was outlawed, and taken in the year 1708, intending to invade Scotland. He was, however, reprieved by Queen Anne, till his death in the year 1710. His grandson Edward, turning protestant, took the oaths and seat in parliament 1717; but dying 1742, without male issue, the title became extinct. His eldest daughter married John Whitwell, esq. of Oundle, by whom she had John Griffin, and was advanced, 1784, to the title of Lord Howard of Walden. This estate is now sold out of the family. Here was born Robert Braybroke, Bishop of London, 1381—1404, whose corpse was found entire after the great fire.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of two miles beyond Oxendon we pass through the village of KELMARSH, in the parish of which is Kelmarsh-hall,

the seat of William Hanbury, esq.; it is a large mansion, the east front being modern, and consisting of a body and two wings, connected by offices: the west front is dissimilar, older, and less ornamental. The pleasure grounds are pleasingly diversified with the contrasting effects of wood and water. The proprietor possesses a fine collection of paintings.

At the distance of three miles and a half from Kelmarsh, we pass on our left Lamport-hall, the seat of Sir Justinian Isham, bart. and has been in the possession of his family from the close of the sixteenth century. The front of the house, towards the road, was designed by John Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones. On the north side of the church is a chapel, or burial place, for the Ishams, abounding with mural mementoes. In this parish is the small chapelry of Faxton, the church of which contains a fine monument, to the memory of Sir Augustine Nicoles: it is composed of black and white marble, with an effigy representing him in his judge's robes, kneeling before a desk, on which is placed a book; and on the right is a statue of Justice, and on the left another of Wisdom.

One mile and a half west from Lamport, we pass through BRIXWORTH, a large respectable village. Towards the close of the reign of Henry the Third, Simon Fitz-Simon procured for himself and heirs, the privilege of a weekly market, on Tuesdays, at this place, and an annual fair, continued for three days, commencing on the eve of St. Boniface: there is no date by which we can determine how long these customs existed, but it is not unreasonable to suppose, they ceased with the extinction of the family to whom they were granted.

The base of a cross, on an ascent of two or three steps, is still standing, and was probably the ancient butter or market cross. Within these few years an annual fair on the Monday after the Ascension has been revived.

The church presents more of the antique in its ma-

terials than in its architecture, though a semicircular staircase projecting from the tower, is a singular and almost unique appendage: the south aisle is not above half the length of the nave, but from vestiges of arches appears to have run parallel with it. A curious relic of Gothic superstition was recently discovered in this church, over the altar tomb of Adam de Taunton, who died possessed of this living in the year 1322. A large stone protruded from the wall, surmounted by a rude head, on removing which a circular aperture was disclosed, wherein was deposited a wooden box, containing part of a human jaw bone, and a thick substance slightly elastic.

Not far from the church-yard are slight traces of trenches, and two or three tumuli are seen in the vicinity; and about half a mile to the south-west of the village, is the site of the old manor-house of Woolphage, in which Sir James Harrington founded a chauntry, and endowed it with lands in Lancashire.

Brixworth-hall, once the seat of the Nichols and Raynsfords, but now of W. Wood esq. is a plain family mansion, surrounded by the village, from which it is screened by plantations, and enclosed within a wall.

About one mile south from Brixworth, we pass on our left the small village of Pitsford, near which is a sepulchral tumulus, known by the name of Longman's Hill; and on a heath near the village is a small encampment, called Barrow Dykes, the circumvallation of which was anciently of a square form; but only two sides remain, one of which is about 80 yards in length. In this parish is Pitsford-hall, a respectable modern building, consisting of a centre and two wings; it has been occupied for some years by Colonel Corbett.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Pitsford, on the left, is the village of Boughton, the manor of which was transmitted by intermarriages from the Greens and Vauxs to Sir John Briscoe, bart. who mortgaged it to Lord Ashburnham, by

whom it was sold to the Earl of Strafford; but that title becoming extinct on the demise of the late earl, this portion of his property devolved to W. H. Vyse, esq. son of General Vyse. The manor-house was an irregular and antiquated though not very extensive building.

Sir Henry Green, in the reign of Edward the Third, "obtained for himself and his heirs the grant of a fair, to be held yearly in this manor, for the space of three days, beginning upon the vigil of the nativity of John the Baptist, and ending the day after it." Since that time the fair at Boughton has become the most celebrated in this part of the kingdom, and is annually resorted to by a vast concourse of persons, both for pleasure and business.

There is a chapel in the village, the south door of which bears the date of 1599; the inhabitants still bury in the yard of the old parish church, the roofless body of which alone remains. Grose has given a view of it in his antiquities, with the tower and an octangular spire, both of which, however, fell down some years ago.

About three miles to the east of the last-mentioned place is Overstone-hall, a respectable mansion, which, after having been occupied by various proprietors, was purchased of the late Lord Brownlow, by John Kipling, esq. its present possessor. A new and very neat church, with windows of stained glass, has been built here, at the sole expence of the latter gentleman.

Returning to our road, at the distance of six miles and a half from Brixworth, we arrive at

NORTHAMPTON,

The principal town of the county, sixty-six miles from London, pleasantly situated on an eminence gently sloping to the river Nen, over which it has two bridges, and consists of five principal streets, meeting near the great church of Allhallows; they are paved and lighted, and the houses forming them handsome and well built. Here are four churches, of which

Allhallows is the chief. The County-hall, in which the assizes and sessions are holden, is an elegant building. The government is entrusted to a mayor, two bailiffs, four aldermen, a recorder, town-clerk, a common council, forty-eight burgesses and five serjeants. Since the Nen has been made navigable to the town, the inhabitants have been supplied with coals, and have an intercourse with Hull, and the ports on the east side of the kingdom.

In narrating its early history, it is stated that a town was formed at this place during the Anglo-Saxon dynasty, and that the same was attacked, plundered, and burnt by the Danes, in their different predatory incursions into this part of the island. In the year 1064 the Northumbrians, under Earl Morcar, took possession of the town, and in the genuine spirit of savage warriors, murdered the inhabitants, burnt the houses, "carried away thousands of cattle, and multitudes of prisoners;" but in the reign of Edward the Confessor, here were sixty burgesses in the king's lordship, and sixty houses: at the time of the Conquest fourteen were waste; but at the time of the survey there were forty burgesses in the new borough.

Simon St. Liz, a noble Norman, founded a castle here, "the town of Northampton, and the whole hundred of *Falkely* (Fawsley), then valued at forty pounds a year, being given to him to provide shoes for his horses." From that period it became considerable, was frequently the seat of parliaments, and was on several other occasions honoured with the royal presence.

In 1106, the Saxon Chronicle states that Robert Duke of Normandy, had an interview here with his brother King Henry the First, to accommodate the difference then subsisting between them. In his twenty-third year that monarch and his court kept the festival of Easter at Northampton, with all the pomp and state peculiar to that age; and, in the thirty-first year of the same reign, a parliament was held in this town, when the nobles swore fealty to the Em-

press Maud, on whom the king had settled the right of succession.

In the year 1138 King Stephen, in order to attach the clergy to his interest, a measure in those days so essentially necessary, summoned a council to meet him at Northampton, at which all the bishops, abbots, and barons of the realm attended, for the purpose of making promotions in the church.

In 1144 Stephen held his court here, when Ranaulf Earl of Chester, who came to tender his services, was detained as a prisoner till he had surrendered the castle of Lincoln, and other fortresses, as security for his allegiance, he being suspected of conspiring with the Duke of Normandy against the king.

When the celebrated statutes of Clarendon were established, in the 10th of Henry the Second, for the good order of the kingdom, and for the better defining the boundaries of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, Archbishop Becket alone refused his assent (a refusal attended with a train of evils, vexatious to the king, and fatal to the prelate); a council of the states was convened at Northampton, before whom the archbishop was summoned to appear, and answer to the charges of contumacy, perjury, &c. which should then be exhibited against him.

Anketil Mallore, who supported Prince Henry's unnatural rebellion, marched with a considerable force from Leicester to Northampton; where, having defeated the royalists, he plundered the town, and returned to Leicester with his booty, accompanied by nearly 200 prisoners.

In the twenty-sixth year of the above monarch's reign, a convention of the barons and prelates was assembled here to amend, confirm, and enforce the constitutions of Clarendon. By this council the kingdom was divided into six circuits, and justices itinerant were assigned to each; from the formation of this convention, the advice of the knights and burgesses being required, as well as that of the nobles and prelates, it has been considered as the model

by which parliaments have been constituted in succeeding times: the king of Scotland, with the bishops and abbots of that kingdom, attended this council to profess their subjection to the Church of England.

During the civil contests which England was so unhappily afflicted with, this town came in for its share of the calamities incident to war. In that between King John and the barons it was stoutly defended on the part of the king against Robert Fitzwalter, fanatically styled "Marshall of the army of God, and the holy church;" who, for want of military engines, was obliged to raise the siege. This post was deemed of such importance, that after the Charter of Liberty was extorted from John, the constable for the time being was sworn (by the twenty-five barons appointed as a committee to enforce its execution) to govern the castle according to their pleasure. This was done in the fullness of their power; but as soon as the perjured prince got the upper hand, he appointed Fulk de Breans, a valiant but base-born Norman, to the command, as one in whom he could entirely confide. In the tenth year of his reign, having been displeased with the citizens of London, he commanded the Exchequer to be removed to Northampton; and, in his thirteenth year, in a council of lay nobles convened here, the king met the Pope's nuncios, Pandulf and Durand, in order to adjust those differences which had long subsisted between him and the Holy See. The king made large concessions; but as he would not or could not restore to the clergy their confiscated effects, the treaty was broken off, and the king was solemnly excommunicated by the legates.

Henry the Third, during his reign, frequently made Northampton his place of residence, and honoured it with particular marks of his favour; and in the war between that king and the confederate barons, it was alternately besieged and possessed by each of the contending parties. About this time a short-lived University existed in this town, which arose

from the following occurrence. In the year 1238, Otho, the Pope's legate, happened to visit the University of Oxford, and took his residence at the neighbouring convent of Osney. He was one day respectfully waited on by the students, who were insolently refused admittance by the Italian porter. At length, after intolerable provocation from the clerk of the kitchen, a Welsh student drew his bow, and shot him dead. The resentment of government, and the fear of punishment, caused the first secession of the students to Northampton and other places. In succeeding years fresh riots arose, and occasioned farther migrations. At length these migrations were made under sanction of the king, who imagined that the disturbances arose from the too great concourse of scholars at one place. It is said that not fewer than fifteen thousand students settled in this town. Either from resentment of former proceedings against them, or from the usual dislike youth have to governing powers, they took the part of the barons: upon which they formed themselves into companies; had their distinguishing banner, and when Henry the Third made his attack on Northampton, proved by far his most vigorous opponents. After the king had made himself master of the place, he determined to hang every student; but being at length appeased, he permitted them to return to Oxford, under the conduct of Simon Mountfort, and abolished the University of Northampton.

A similar emigration took place from the University of Cambridge; but was soon superseded by a royal mandate, which compelled the students to return to their old seminaries; and farther provided that no university should ever be established here.

In the year 1279, on Good Friday, the Jews residing in this town crucified a Christian boy; but who fortunately survived their cruelty; for this atrocious act fifty of them were drawn at horses' tails, and publicly hanged. In the preceding year, three hundred had been executed for clipping the coin; these

and other enormities rendered the Jews so odious, that in the year 1290, a statue was passed for their expulsion from the kingdom, and for the confiscation of their property. Edward the First frequently resided here in great splendour, and on his death a parliament was held here to settle the ceremonial of his burial, and the marriage and coronation of his successor. In the reign of Edward the Third, several parliaments were likewise held at Northampton, and in the eleventh year of that monarch's reign, the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, obtained the royal licence to hold an annual fair for twenty-eight days; but which fair is now disused.

In the year 1460 Henry the Sixth made Northampton the place of rendezvous of his forces. The strength of his army encouraged his spirited queen to offer battle to his young antagonist, the Earl of March, then at the head of a potent army. A conference was demanded by the earl, and rejected by the royal party, who marched out of the town, and encamped in the meadows, between it and Hardingstone. The battle was fierce and bloody; but by the treachery of Edmund, Lord Grey of Ruthen, who deserted his unhappy master, victory declared in favour of the House of York. Thousands were slain or drowned in the Nen; among them the Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Shrewsbury, John, Viscount Beaumont, and Lord Egremont. The duke was interred in the church of the Grey-friars; others of the men of rank, in the adjacent abbey of De la Prè; and others in the hospital of St. John in the town.

Northampton was visited by Queen Elizabeth in the year 1563, and by King Charles the First in 1604; it was ravaged by the plague in 1637; and in 1642 it was seized by the parliamentary forces, by whom it was fortified; the south and west bridges being converted into draw-bridges, and additional works thrown up in the defenceless places. In the

north-east part of the town parts of a foss and a bastion of earth are yet visible.

Much of the beauty of Northampton is owing to the calamity it sustained by fire, on the 20th of September, 1675; when the greatest part was laid in ashes, above 600 dwelling-houses being then burnt, and more than 700 families thereby deprived of their habitations and property; the general loss of which was estimated at one hundred and fifty thousand pounds. A subscription was however soon instituted, and twenty-five thousand pounds were collected by brief and private charity towards its relief; and the king gave a thousand tons of timber out of Whittlewood Forest, and remitted the duty of chimney money in this town for seven years; so that it was soon rebuilt, and changed its wooden edifices for more secure and ornamental houses of stone.

The town of Northampton was formerly surrounded by embattled walls, and was defended by a large fortress or castle, and by bastion towers. In the walls were four gate-houses, named from their relative situations, East Gate, West Gate, North Gate, and South Gate. Those towards the north, south, and west, had rooms or dwellings over them, and that to the east, according to Bridges, "was the fairest of all," being lofty, and embellished with shields of arms, and other ornaments. Southward of this was a smaller gate, or postern, called the Durn-gate. The walls, like those of Chester, served for a public walk, which is reported to have been wide enough for six persons to walk a-breast. Leland mentions the walls and gates as standing in his time. The same writer says, "The castel standeth hard by the west-gate, and hath a large kepe. The area of the resideu is very large, and bullewarkes of yerth be made afore the castelle-gate." "That some fortress was erected here previous to the Norman conquest, (says a modern writer), may be inferred from the events that have occurred here during the Saxon and

Danish dynasties; but of that building no accounts have descended to the present times. It is however recorded, that Simon de Senlitz, or St. Liz, the first Earl of Northampton of that name, erected a castle here in the reign of William the Conqueror; but as no mention is made of it in Doomsday-book, it appears not to have been completed till after that survey was taken. It was situated on an eminence without the west-gate of the town; and was defended on three sides by a deep trench, or foss, whilst a branch of the river Nen served as a natural barrier on the western side. In Henry the Second's reign it was possessed by the crown; and was afterwards entrusted to some constable or castellan, appointed by the sovereign. But in the civil war of 1264, between Henry the Third and his nobles, we find it in the occupation of the confederate barons, under the banner of the Earl of Leicester, whose son, Simon de Montford, was then its governor. The king having received considerable reinforcements from the northern barons, his adherents besieged the castle with great vigour; but the admirable situation and strength of the fortress, with the undaunted courage of the garrison, composed of the finest troops in the service of the earl, under the direction of officers of distinguished skill and valour, baffled all the efforts of the royal troops, and convinced them that force was totally inadequate to their arduous enterprise. At length recourse was had to stratagem, not altogether just or manly in principle, but which effectually served their purpose. While the barons were engaged in a parley, under pretence of negotiation, a chosen body of the royal forces was dispatched to make a breach in the walls at the opposite extremity of the town. The plan succeeded; the garrison, thus taken by surprise, were, notwithstanding a brilliant display of courage, completely discomfited, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war: in this capitulation were included fourteen of the most potent barons and knights-bannerets, and forty infe-

rior knights. The castle thus reverted to the crown, till in the third year of Edward the Third, Thomas Wake, then sheriff, claimed the custody of it, as annexed to the county, and belonging to his jurisdiction; and it being found by an inquisition then taken, to have been immemorially attached to that office, it was ordered to be given up to be held by the said sheriff and his successors. Within the castle was a royal free chapel, dedicated to St. George. Previous to the year 1675 this fortress was used as the country gaol; and the two courts of justice were held here. In 1662, pursuant to an order of the king and council, the walls and gates, and part of the castle, were demolished; and the site of it sold soon afterwards to Robert Haselrig, esq. in whose family it still remains. It appears, indeed, from the account of Norden, that even in the year 1593 the castle was much decayed, and the walls defenceless. "This towne," says he, "is a faire towne, with many faire old buildings, large streets, and a very ample and faire market-place; it is walled about with a walle of stone, but meane too of strength; neare unto the towne there standeth an eminent castle ruynous." Since Norden's time most of these ruins have been swept away, or levelled; and now only a few fragments of foundation walls and parts of the fosses remain. The inner ballium was nearly circular, and surrounded by a lofty wall, with bastion towers at irregular distances. This was again encompassed by a deep and wide foss. A broad ballium, or area for the garrison, extended for some distance, and was guarded by an outer vallum, with barbican, &c." The general extent of the earth-works may still be traced.

There were formerly seven parish churches within the walls of Northampton, which were respectively dedicated to All Saints, St. Giles, St. Gregory, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Peter, and St. Sepulchre: besides these there was St. Catherine's, a chapel of ease to All Saints in the town; St. Edmund's church,

without the East-gate; and St. Bartholomew's, without the North-gate. Of these structures, four only are remaining at present, into which number of parishes the town is divided: All Saints, St. Giles's, St. Peter's, and St. Sepulchre's.

The church of All Saints stands in the centre of the town, at the meeting of four spacious streets; it has a stately portico of eight Ionic columns, with a statue of King Charles the Second on the balustrade. It extends the length of the front, the columns in couplets; but the remaining Gothic part of the building appearing over the Grecian architecture, is a contrast not very agreeable. The inside of the church is finished in a very elegant modern manner, and in it is preserved a list of the subscribers to the repairs which were made here after the fire in 1675, when the old church fell a victim to the flames.

St. Giles's church, which is situated near the eastern end of the town, is a large pile of building, consisting of a nave, aisles, transept, and tower, rising from the centre. At the west end is an ancient doorway, with a semicircular arch, and Norman mouldings. In the south transept is an old altar-monument, said to have been raised to one of the Gobion family; but the inscription is wholly obliterated. Within this church there was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. Peter; and a fraternity or guild of St. Clement.

St. Peter's church is seated at the western extremity of the town, and was probably erected by one of the first Norman Earls of Northampton. It is a singular building, consisting of a nave and two aisles of equal length, having seven columns on each side, three of which are composed of four semi-columns: all the capitals are charged with sculpture of scroll-work, heads, animals, &c. On each side of the nave are eight semicircular arches, with indented zigzag mouldings on the face and soffits; but the most curious part of the interior of this singular structure is the great archway beneath the tower at the western end of the nave: it consists of three receding

arches, each charged, both in elevation and soffit, with zigzag mouldings. The exterior of the church and tower is equally curious, though the architectural and sculptural decorations are not so profuse or elaborate.

The advowson of this church was given by Edward the Third to the hospital of St. Catherine, near the Tower of London, and still remains under its patronage. It was formerly a privilege of this church that any person accused of a crime, and intending to clear himself by canonical purgation, was obliged to do it in this church only, having here first performed his vigil and prayers on the preceding evening. Hence it appears that this church was invested with the privilege of sanctuary; and it may be also inferred, that it was founded by or under the patronage of some powerful person or society; but of the era of its erection there is no certain record.

St. Sepulchre's church is situated near the northern extremity of the town; it is supposed to have been built by the Knights Templars, on the model of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The imitative part is round, with a nave issuing from it: in the round part is a peristyle of eight circular pillars, thirteen feet eight inches in height, and twelve feet three inches in circumference. The capitals consist of two round fillets; the arches sharp and plain; the space from the walls to the pillars is eleven feet, and the diameter, from the inside of one pillar to that of the opposite is twenty-nine feet two inches. A square tower, with a spire at the western end, are additions of a comparatively modern date to the original edifice. Part of the circular building is evidently very ancient, probably before the year 1200; but various alterations have been made at different times. Here was evidently a church in the time of Henry the First, as that monarch gave it, with four acres of land, to the convent of St. Andrew.

Formerly Northampton, as before observed, possessed three other churches, but which are now

destroyed. St. Bartholomew's stood on the east side of the road going to Kingsthorp; and was bestowed by St. Liz on his convent of St. Andrew. St. Edmund's stood without the East-gate, and was also under the patronage of St. Andrew's; and the church of St. Gregory, the site and buildings of which were granted in the year 1577, for a grammar-school, with the vicarage-house, for the use of the master. Part of this church is still appropriated to the school-house.

Eastward of the castle, in St. Mary's-street, was also a church dedicated to the "Blessed Virgin," which in the year 1539 was united to the vicarage of All Saints. In St. Michael's-lane, now called Cock-lane, was a church dedicated to St. Michael; the parish is now annexed to St. Sepulchre's. In the parish of All Saints was St. Catherine's chapel: in the cemetry belonging to which it was formerly customary to inter the bodies of those persons who died of the plague; there also appears to have been St. Martin's chapel in St. Martin's-street, and St. Margaret's church without the West-gate. Most of these buildings were annexed to the monastery of St. Andrew, by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, early in the thirteenth century.

Besides these churches there were many religious foundations here; the first, in order of time, appears to have been the priory of St. Andrew, for Black Friars, which stood at the north-western part of the town, near the river, and was founded anterior to the year 1076; for in 1084 Simon de St. Liz repaired the buildings, and augmented the endowments. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed the churches and tythes given to this priory, and Henry the First added his royal assent to that confirmation, and granted the monks many libertises and franchises. This priory, which was for Cluniac monks, had been subordinate to the foreign abbey of St. Mary de Caritate, but had been made denizen in the sixth year of Henry the Fourth, and afterwards, at its dissolution, its reve-

nues were valued by Speed, at 334*l.* per annum; but by Dugdale at only 263*l.*

The Franciscans, or Grey Friars, had an establishment in this town, soon after their coming into England, about the year 1224: they originally hired an habitation in the parish of St. Giles's, but afterwards fixed northward of the market-place, upon ground given them by the town. This house was valued at the suppression at 6*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

Near this house was a priory of Carmelites, or White Friars, founded and endowed by Simon de Mountford and Thomas Chetwood, in the year 1271; it was seated within the walls, and was valued, at the dissolution, at 10*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

The Dominicans, or Black Friars, were fixed here before the year 1240; John Dabyngton was either founder or a considerable benefactor to this establishment, which at the dissolution was valued at only 5*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

In the western part of the town was an abbey of Black Canons, dedicated to St. James, and built by William Peverel, natural son to William the Conqueror, before the year 1112, which was valued, at the dissolution, at 175*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* a year, according to Dugdale; or, 213*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* according to Speed.

In Bridge-street, near the South-gate, John Longueville, in the year 1322, gave a messuage, with the appurtenances, for a chapel and priory of Augustine Friars. Several persons of the name of Longueville were interred here. John Goodwyn, the prior, with seven friars, resigned it to the king in the year 1539; it was soon afterwards granted to Robert Dighton. Its revenues are unknown.

The college of All Saints, from which College-lane in this town takes its name, was founded in the year 1459, with liberty of purchasing to the value of 20 marks. It consisted of only two fellows. In the year 1235 it was found, clear of all reprizes, to be worth 39*s.* 4*d.*

The hospital of St. John is an ancient building,

standing in Bridge-street. It consists of a chapel, a large hall, with apartments for the brethren, and two rooms above for the co-brothers. It was founded for the reception of infirm poor, probably by William St. Clere, archdeacon of Northampton, who died possessed of that dignity in the year 1163. He is by some supposed to have been brother to Simon St. Clere; but Leland justly insinuates that his family never was called by that name, but by that of St. Liz. At the dissolution its clear revenues were 57*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* Sir Francis Brian was then high steward of the house, and had 40*s.* yearly; and eight poor persons were maintained at two-pence a day each.

St. Thomas's hospital stands a little more to the south of St. John's, beyond the South-gate, in the suburbs called The Quarters, which extend to the South-bridge. This owes its foundation, in the year 1450, to the respect the citizens had for St. Thomas-à-Becket. It originally maintained 12 poor people: six more were added in the year 1654, by Sir John Langham, and one more of later years by Massingberd. It is governed by a warden, who is one of the aldermen; and the vicar of All Saints is the chaplain. The front of this hospital is ornamented with niches, pointed windows, and a row of shields in pannels.

There is besides an hospital on the south side of the town, in the parish of Hardingstone, dedicated to St. Leonard, for a master and leprous brethren, founded before the year 1240. The mayor and burgesses were patrons. Dugdale valued it at 10*l.* a year.

"Among the public buildings and establishments of this town none is more prominent in utility, or larger in size than the General Infirmary. It stands on the eastern side of and detached from the town, on the brow of a hill, which gradually slopes to the south. The origin of the present structure arose from the following circumstance. Such is the form

of the county of Northampton, that its extremities could not so easily obtain the advantages of the charity as some portions of the neighbouring ones, which approach so near to the site of the Infirmary as happily to be within the reach of its benevolent influence. This circumstance, added to the earnest desire of the governors to extend the benefits of the establishment as far as possible, suggested the idea of enlargement. To effect this desirable object, it was necessary that a building should be erected for the express design of an infirmary, on a larger scale than the old one, with its various departments, properly adapted and arranged, and in a situation more eligible and secluded. The undertaking was formidable; but the governors trusted to the benevolent spirit of the public, and they were not deceived. The liberality of the measure could only be equalled by the generosity and unanimity with which it was encouraged and supported; the noble and opulent, by their munificence, set an example worthy of their rank in the community; and all descriptions of persons followed it, in proportion to their ability, with a promptness that reflects on them the highest credit. Encouraged by so general a support, the governors proceeded to the extension of the institution without delay; and, by an unremitting attention to the object, and at an expenditure of not less than fifteen thousand pounds, a grand and convenient structure has been erected. It consists of three stories above ground and one beneath, and is admirably disposed for the reception and accommodation of the sick. One side of the house is appropriated to male and the other to female patients. The whole was designed and built by Mr. Saxton, architect, and is faced with stone from the Kingsthorpe quarries; the proprietor of which made a present of the whole. In the building and formation, the strictest attention has been paid to the great object of the establishment; and, although the governors have expended so large a sum in the execution of the plan, yet a spirit of

economy has constantly presided at all their deliberations and decisions, and no expence has been incurred which the ends and purposes of the institution did not demand; all ideas of pomp and ostentation were rejected, and the edifice assumes but a just and becoming importance, proportionate to the magnitude of the undertaking and to the munificence and expectations of its generous supporters. In this new refuge for the afflicted all the inconveniences (and they were many) which attended the old one have been carefully avoided.—The situation is airy and salubrious, apart from the din and tumults of society: all the interior apartments are constructed and arranged after the best models, and are of sufficient number and capacity to receive and accommodate the afflicted poor within a more extended circle. The establishment is supported by the interest arising from numerous legacies and annual subscriptions; and it must afford much gratification to the benevolent and humane mind to contemplate the extensive benefit that has been afforded by this infirmary." Exclusive of medical and surgical aid, the establishment provides, what are no mean auxiliaries in the cure of distempers, *proper accommodations, constant attention, with wholesome and nutritious food.*—"In our charitable abode," say the committee, "nothing is denied that can any way promote recovery." The present edifice was begun in the year 1791, and opened in 1793: previous to which the Old County Infirmary was near All Saints church, in the midst of the town, and this only afforded relief to poor persons belonging to the county; but at its removal was made a *General* Infirmary, and intended to administer its aid to all persons properly recommended, or to any when required by sudden emergency."

The Old County Gaol, situated near All Saints church, is now converted into the turnkey's lodge and debtors' prison. It was originally built by Sir T. Haslewood, as a private house. Behind this is the New Gaol, which was begun in the year 1791,

and finished in 1794, at an expence of between 15,000*l.* and 16,000*l.* It is arranged according to Howard's plan, and will hold about 120 prisoners. The Town-gaol stands in Fish-lane; it is a small modern building. The County Hall, or Sessions House, is a large room, fitted up for the two courts of Nisi Prius and Crown: it is situated near the east end of All Saints church.

In the year 1796 a range of modern buildings was erected at the northern extremity of the town, and appropriated to barracks. A new theatre has also been built in Gold-street.

About the year 1710, John Dryden, esq. of Chesterton, established a Blue-coat school here, and gave his house, called the George Inn, to endow it. An act of parliament was a few years since obtained by the trustees appointed to superintend this charity, to enable them to sell this house, and invest the money in the funds, and appropriate the interest to the school. The George Inn was purchased by a society of persons who subscribed 50*l.* each, and is now their property.

Another charity, called Brown School, was endowed by the late James Earl of Northampton, and other gentlemen of the county, who gave several sums of money to the corporation, with which they purchased an estate at Bugbroke, the rents arising from which is applied to clothe twenty-five boys of freemen; and when the revenues have been inadequate to pay the annual charges, the deficiency has been made up by the corporation.

Mr. Gabriel Newton, in the year 1761, likewise gave a rent charge of twenty-six pounds per annum, to provide twenty-five poor boys with clothing and education; but this sum being insufficient, the corporation advance the remaining money necessary to support the establishment. This charity is called the Green School.

Two ladies in the year 1738 also founded a girls' school here, and endowed it with lands and houses

to support and educate thirty poor girls; the revenues having increased, six more children are also now provided for.

The town of Northampton may be said to be divided into four nearly equal parts, by two streets running east and west, and north and south; both these streets are wide and commodious, each extends near a mile in length; the houses in general are built of a reddish-coloured sand stone, dug from the quarries in the neighbourhood; there are however some constructed of stone of a yellowish cast, and a few are brick buildings. Nearly all the streets and lanes are paved, both for carriages and foot passengers; and as the town is chiefly built on the slope, and near the top of a hill, it is generally clean and pleasant. Near its centre is a large open area, surrounded by shops and private houses, called the square or market-place. In the middle of this is a large public pump, and at one side is a reservoir of water, called the Great Conduit. At the eastern extremity of the town a pleasant walk has been made, its sides planted with hedges and trees, and thus rendered peculiarly eligible as a promenade for healthful exercise. It is called *Vigo Paradise Walk*, or the *New Walk*, and was formed at the expence of the corporation; at the lower extremity is a chalybeate spring, enclosed with steps and walls, and near the upper end is another of clear water, known by the name of *Thomas à Becket's Well.*

The horse-market in this town is reckoned to exceed all others in the kingdom, it being deemed the centre of all its horse-markets and horse-fairs, both for saddle and harness, and the chief rendezvous of the jockeys both from York and London.

Its principal manufacture is shoes, of which great numbers are sent beyond sea; there is also a stocking and lace manufactory, and much wool-combing; but that of lace, which formerly employed a number of women, has lately declined. In the market, one of the most spacious in England, a vast deal of busi-

ness is transacted in the sale of horses and corn. The market held on Saturday is amply supplied with all manner of provisions.

Northampton was first incorporated by Henry the Second, but since that reign several other charters to alter or enlarge the privileges of the corporate body have been granted. By a charter of King John, the burgesses were exempted from all "toll, lastage, and murrage, throughout England: also from being impleaded out of the town;" and were invested with other privileges in as ample a manner as the citizens of London: for these liberties they were bound to pay annually into the king's exchequer 120*l*. Henry the Third, in the forty-first year of his reign, granted a new charter, confirming and extending the liberties, &c. of the burgesses; again in the twenty-seventh of Edward the First, and in the fourth of Henry the Seventh, the charter was renewed and confirmed; and in the ninth year of the latter reign, the mayor, bailiffs, &c. obtained the liberty of choosing a recorder, and appointing two burgesses, who, with the mayor, were invested with the powers of justices of peace within the town. By a charter bearing date the 3rd of August, fifteenth Charles the Second, the corporation is specified to consist of a mayor, and two bailiffs, and such as have been mayors and bailiffs, with forty-eight burgesses, called common-council, recorder, chamberlain, and town-clerk; this charter continued in force till the year 1796, though it was surrendered in 1683, and a new one issued. In 1796 the altered, or as it is commonly called, new charter was obtained. According to a provincial newspaper, it was brought from London by the mayor, who was conducted from the bridge through the town "with great ceremony, amidst the congratulations of the townsmen, on the re-establishment of their ancient privileges, and the security and protection afforded to the poor." The mayor, recorder, or his deputy, and one justice, are necessary to form a sessions; they have power in

criminal causes to try all offenders; though they seldom extend their jurisdiction beyond petty-larcenies.

This town is among the most ancient boroughs, for in the parliament held at Acton Burnel, in the time of Edward the First, it was one of the trading towns that sent two members each to parliament: every inhabitant householder paying scot and lot has the liberty of voting: the number of voters is about one thousand.

The town of Northampton is situated 66 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 2023 houses, and 10793 inhabitants. The town gaol has been lately much improved, and is now well suited for the purposes intended.

In May 1815 a desirable communication was made with all parts of the kingdom, by means of a branch canal between the river Nen and the Grand Junction. At the north side of the town is a tract of land, which, in the year 1778, was an open field of near 900 acres, but in that year an act was obtained to inclose it: about 130 acres of this was then allotted to the freemen of the town, for cattle, &c. but it was provided in the act, that the same may be claimed and used as a race-course for any two days between the 20th of July and 20th of October.

The races are held here in September, upon a piece of ground of about 117 acres, at a convenient distance; and at the northern extremity of the town are extensive barracks, erected in 1796. The market is held by charter on Monday, Friday and Saturday, in a large and commodious building erected for the purpose.

The London mail arrives at four in the morning, and departs for London at ten at night. The Birmingham mail arrives at half past two in the morning, and departs at eleven at night.

Robert Brown, the celebrated father of the Independents, was, according to Collier, a native of Northampton. After having studied divinity in the

University of Cambridge, he became a school-master in Southwark. However, he was destined to act a more prominent character on the stage of life, and instead of teaching youth the rudiments of language, he undertook to instruct adults, in what he deemed the true principles of religion. He therefore determined to preach and practice a new system; and accordingly, about the year 1580, "he began to inveigh with intemperate vehemence and ardour against the discipline and ceremonies of the Church of England, representing her government as anti-christian, her sacraments as superstitious, her liturgy as a mixture of Popery and Paganism, and the mission of her clergy as no better than that of Baal's priests in the Old Testament." Persecuted for these opinions, and his conduct in promulgating them, he fled to Middleburgh. Here he established himself, and published three tracts, entitled, 1. "A Treatise on Reformation," &c. 2. "A Treatise upon the 23d chapter of Matthew," &c. and 3. "A Book, which sheweth the Life and Manners of all True Christians," &c. Returning to England, and persisting in cherishing and disseminating his new tenets, he experienced much persecution from the established prelates. Some of these at last frightened him into *apparent* submission, and he was then appointed to a rectory in this county. Here, according to Fuller, he had a church, in which he never preached, and a wife, with whom he never lived. Opposing some proceeding of a parish constable, he was arrested and conveyed to Northampton gaol on a bed in a cart, being above eighty years of age. In the latter part of his life he boasted of having "been committed to thirty-two prisons;" and here he died in 1630.

Resuming our journey, on leaving Northampton, we continue to proceed southerly, and, at the distance of about one mile, pass, on our left, the seat of Edward Bouverie, esq. a modern edifice of varied architecture; raised from the ruins, and on the site of the Abbey de Pratis, de la Prè, a house of Cluniac

Nuns, founded by Simon de St. Liz, the younger, Earl of Northampton. It had in it ten nuns at the time of the dissolution. The last abbess, Clementina Stokes, governed it thirty years, and obtained the king's charter for the continuance of her convent; but, fearing to incur the displeasure of the tyrant, resigned it into the hands of Dr. London, the king's commissioner, and obtained from him the character of "a gudde agyd woman; of her howse being in a gudde state," and, what was more substantial, a pension of 40*l.* per annum. In the cemetery belonging to this convent, Leland informs us in his Itinerary, that many of the soldiers were buried, who fell in the sanguinary conflict which took place in the fields of Hardingstone, in the thirty-eighth year of Henry the Sixth's reign: this fight is generally called the Battle of Northampton, in which the Duke of Buckingham, with other noblemen, were killed, and the king taken prisoner.

Near the south-western corner of the park, on an ascent by the road side, stands one of the pledges of affection borne by Edward the First to his beloved Eleanor; who caused a cross to be erected on the spot wheresoever her body rested, in its way from Hareley, in Lincolnshire, where she died, in the year 1290, to Westminster, the place of her interment. It is called Queen's Cross, and is kept in excellent repair; it is of an octagonal form, and stands on a base of seven steps. Coats of arms, and an open book adorn the lower compartments. Above, in six Gothic niches, are as many female figures crowned; above them are four modern dials, facing the four cardinal points; and above those is the cross.

Around this spot are frequently found Roman coins and medals; from which it is conjectured, that this might have been the site of Eltavon, or Eltabon, (from the British *ael*, a brow, and *avon*, a river), and is supposed to have been the Eltanori, or Eltavori, of the geographer of Ravenna. The dry and elevated situation, and its vicinity to a river, makes it

very probable that this was a Roman station, at least a summer camp.

Near this place, on the summit of the hill called Hunsborough, are some ancient works of a circular form, consisting of a fosse and double rampart, with a single entrance. Mr. Morton attributes this to the Danes, and imagines it to have been a summer camp of one of the plundering parties, which infested the kingdom of Mercia about the year 921. Another was raised about the same time at Temsford, in the county of Bedford, for the same purpose. This has very much the appearance of a British post; but, as there is great similitude between the early fortifications of the northern nations, we will not controvert the opinion of that ingenious author; yet we have probability on our side, as he admits that the Danes had possession of Hamtune, *i. e.* Northampton in 917. We think they would scarcely trouble themselves with raising these works so near their former quarters, which, for any thing that appears, was as open to them in 921, as in the former year.

About half a mile east from Queen's Cross is the village of HARDINGSTONE, pleasantly seated on the brow of a hill, and thence commanding some extensive views. In the church of this village are some monuments commemorative of the Harveys, who formerly possessed an old manor-house in the village; of this was James Hervey, author of the "Meditations," and other works, who was born here in the year 1714, and instructed in the free grammar-school at Northampton, where he made great progress in his studies. In the year 1731, he was entered a student of Lincoln college, Oxford, where he took only the degree of bachelor of arts, and entered into holy orders. Being of a very serious turn of mind, and filled with a deep sense of religion, he associated himself with pious people of every denomination, and his natural sweetness of temper recommended him to all who knew him. His piety and virtue, however, did not recommend him to those

in power, nor did he obtain any higher preferment than the curacy of Biddeford, till the death of his father, the Rev. Mr. S. Hervey, when he went to Cambridge, and took his degree of master of arts, and entered on the family livings of Weston-Favel and Collingtree, near Northampton, of the annual value of 180*l.*

He discharged his duties as a minister of the gospel, in such a manner as would have done honour to one of the primitive fathers; and his compassion to those in distress will be long remembered by many persons, besides those of his parish. His health, however, gradually declined, and falling into a lingering consumption, he died on Christmas-day in the year 1758.

Besides his Meditations among the Tombs he wrote Reflections on a Flower Garden; a Descant on Creation; Contemplations on the Night and Starry Heavens; Theron and Aspasio, &c. The profits arising from the sale of his works, together with the principal part of his income, he converted to the use of the distressed.

The village of COLLINGTREE, near the western extremity of this hundred, was the birth-place of the Rev. William Wood, F.L.S. who was born on the 29th of May, 1745, and died at Leeds on the 1st of April, 1808. Biography is never more usefully or laudably employed, than in narrating the memoirs of those persons, who by pre-eminence of genius have advanced themselves from an humble birth to honourable celebrity. Whilst the writer is performing this task, he is administering to the best feelings of the human heart, and is laying before the world such an example as cannot fail to rouse emulation, and gratify benevolence. This is evinced in the life of Mr. Wood, who manifested powerful talents, and an amiable disposition. Under the tuition of the Rev. Drs. Savage, Kippis, and Rees, he acquired a classical education, and what is more valuable, a

habit of philosophizing and thinking. According to an intelligent biographer, he "soon distinguished himself by his love of knowledge, his ardour in the pursuit of it, and his promptness and facility in acquiring it." As a public character, Mr. Wood is chiefly known as the writer of various articles in Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia; and by several sermons, the latter of which are distinguished by a simplicity, perspicuity, and persuasiveness of eloquence, which could not fail to engage the heart, and improve the head of those who heard them. As a preacher he was much admired by his congregation; and was also peculiarly esteemed by a large circle of immediate friends, and distant correspondents. In his professional duty of a Christian minister he was first engaged at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, whence he removed to Ipswich; and when Dr. Priestley was employed as librarian to the Marquis of Lansdown, Mr. Wood was deemed a proper person to fill that eminent man's pulpit. This was at once honourable to Mr. Wood, and proved equally so to the discriminating choice of the unitarian congregation of Leeds; as minister of whom he continued from 1773 to the lamented period of his death, "with uninterrupted harmony and mutual regard!" "It appears that the subject of this memoir was no ordinary man. His mind was of no common character; his intellectual powers of the first order; his faculties were masculine and vigorous; his understanding was comprehensive, clear, and enlightened; his imagination vivid and powerful; his judgment solid and profound." The mind thus formed, and thus disposed, must be calculated to effect great and good purposes; and such appears to have been the constant object of Mr. Wood's life and actions. In promulgating enlightened and liberal principles respecting politics and theological doctrines, he was strenuous and active; for he despised bigotry in one, and party intrigue in the other. The life of such a man cannot be too often related to the listening world, as

it may excite emulation in the good heart, and produce contrition in that prone to vice.

Proceeding with our journey, at the distance of about four miles, we pass on our left the village of COURTENHALL, situated on the western border of Salcey-forest. Here is a free-school, founded by Sir Samuel Jones, and endowed with 80*l.* per annum for the master, and 20*l.* for the usher: the same person also left 500*l.* for building the school-house, &c. and 500*l.* for repairing the church, in which is a monument, "in Italian marble," to his memory, with effigies of Sir Samuel and his lady, both in kneeling postures. He died in the year 1762, aged 63.

About three miles beyond the last-mentioned place, on the right of our road, is Stoke-park, the seat of Levison Vernon, esq. The house consists of two wings, connected with the body by corridores; the columns which support these, Bridges says, were formed of red stone, a colour different from the other parts of the house: but this defect has been lately remedied by the whole front having been cased with handsome white stone, and it now exhibits a pleasing uniformity of colour, corresponding with the regularity of the structure. The house was erected by Francis Crane, esq. to whom the estate on which it stands was given, in consideration of money due to him from the crown, in the time of Charles I. The design was from Italy, and the building was finished about the year 1636.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about seven miles from Queen's-cross, we arrive at GRAFTON REGIS, a small village situated on the river Tow.

Journey from Welford to Kingsthorpe; through Thornby.

WELFORD is a large village, situated on the banks of the Avon, and borders of Leicestershire; and, according to the late returns, consisted of 300 houses.

One mile westward from Welford is Sulby Abbey, which was founded for the monks of the Premonstra-

tensian order, by William de Wideville, or Wivill, lord of Welford manor, about the year 1155. It appears to have been liberally endowed; for, at the dissolution, the annual revenues were stated at 305*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* which were granted in exchange for the manor of Holdenby, to Christopher Hatton, esq. on whose demise the latter devolved to the crown.

About two miles to the south-east of Sulby Abbey is NASEBY, or Navesby, a small village, but on many accounts interesting to the traveller, and will ever be conspicuous on the face of history. It was formerly a market town, a charter having been granted to the inhabitants in the fifth year of King John. In an area of the village is still standing the mercate-cross. An author, who had opportunities of making comparative remarks, says, "the village stands upon an eminence, supposed to be the highest ground in the kingdom." It is indeed observed that no water runs into this lordship from any other quarter, and what runs out of it, on the eastern side, has its course towards the German Ocean; and that on the western proceeds to the Irish Sea. No less than six springs rise in the village, and several others in the lordship, the waters issuing from which are collected in reservoirs, on the declivous ground, and form valuable ponds. The lesser, or what is termed the Upper Avon, rises near the church, from a spring called the Avon-well; the Nen from another called the Chapel-well; and some have referred the source of the Welland to Naseby-field. The parish consists mostly of open commonable fields, and is supposed to measure, taking in every angle, from eighteen to twenty miles in circumference. The village of Naseby is situated 77 miles from London; and adjacent to this village, on Naseby-field, was fought that ever memorable battle between the royal and parliamentarian forces, wherein the army of Charles the First was totally defeated, and in which, according to Lord Clarendon, were lost both the king and kingdom. This being one of the most distinguished battles during the

whole course of the civil wars, the following sketch of it will not, we trust, be deemed uninteresting.

The king having taken Leicester, intended to have marched to London; but General Fairfax, who pursued him closely, having intercepted a packet of letters, was by them informed that the king expected a reinforcement of 2000 men from Wales. The general availed himself of that circumstance, and the king finding, that, if he continued his march, he would be in danger of having his rear cut off, resolved to give Fairfax battle. Both armies were drawn up, to great advantage, near the village, the king's being commanded by Prince Rupert, Lord Astley, and Sir Marmaduke Langdale; and that of the parliament by General Fairfax, Oliver Cromwell, and his son-in-law, General Ireton. Prince Rupert began the attack with his usual bravery, which soon put the right wing of the parliament's army into great confusion; but his experience was not equal to his courage; for, upon his return, he attempted to seize the enemy's cannon, whilst Cromwell attacked the king's horse with such resolution, that they were put into disorder and fled. The prince rejoined the king's army; but his men, who were mostly but ill-disciplined, could not be brought into order. The foot continued to fight with great bravery on both sides; but Cromwell's discipline soon overcame the royalists, and the flight became general. The king once more gathered the remains of his scattered army, and would have begun the attack a second time; but Lord Carnwath, a Scottish peer, laying hold of the bridle of his majesty's horse, called out, "Will you rush upon death in an instant?" This was overheard by the men, who became so dispirited, that they fled on all sides, and the king with much difficulty saved himself by flight, after he had lost the greatest part of his arms, ammunition, and baggage. This battle proved fatal to the king's affairs; for a casket being found in his baggage, it was opened, and in it were some letters to the queen, which discovered to his enemies the plan of opera-

tions he had laid down; and by the precautions taken in consequence of that information, by the parliament, all his schemes were defeated. The conflict occurred on the 14th of June, 1645; and after it all the royal garrisons successively capitulated to the parliamentary soldiers.

The celebrated Naseby-field was thus described by Mr. William Pitt in 1806: "The open field is extensive, and in as backward a state as it could be in Charles the First's time, when the fatal battle was fought. The lower parts a moist rough pasture, with furze, rushes and fern abounding; the rest of the field a strong brown deep loam, in the usual bean and wheat culture. Pasture enclosures near the village, and a good many cows kept. The parish is as much in a state of nature as any thing I have seen in the county. The avenues across the field are zig-zag, as chance has directed, with the hollows and sloughs unfilled, except with mire. The village contains a good many dwelling houses and other buildings, all of which I observed built with mud, and covered with thatch, except the church and two dwellings, one of which seemed the parsonage. The principal inn I saw, the Bell, built and covered with the aforesaid materials. The walls of many of the houses were apparently shivering under their pressure, and seemed to indicate that a small force or weight additional, would convert them and their contents into a ruinous heap, yet neither the soil nor aspect are by any means contemptible."

Returning from this digression, at the distance of three miles southward from Welford, we pass through the village of Thornby; and two miles south-east from Thornby, and on the left of our road, is Cottesbrook-house, the seat of Sir James W. Langham, bart. This mansion is situated in a small park, and is a modern brick building, consisting of a body and two detached wings.

About two miles to the west of Cottesbrook-house is the village of GUILSBOROUGH, which is supposed

to derive its appellation from a large Roman encampment in this parish, situated between the sources of the Nen and Avon: the form of this camp is a parallelogram, and the whole is encompassed by a single foss and vallum, and includes an area of nearly eight acres. It is supposed to have been a camp of the proprætor Ostorius; and is known by the name of Borough-hill, but often called the Burrows. In this parish are two free-schools, one for the instruction of youth in English, writing, &c.; the other, which is a grammar-school, was founded and endowed in the year 1668, by Sir John Langham.

Near the parish church, which has a lofty spire, is Guilsborough-hall, a large mansion, built at different periods, and from its being seated on an eminence, forms a conspicuous object. It is the seat of William Z. L. Ward, esq.

Returning to our road at the distance of four miles from Thornby, we pass the village of Spratton, two miles to the south-west of which is Holdenby, or Holmby-house, which appears, both from description and remaining vestiges, to have been a most magnificent structure, and was erected by Sir Christopher Hatton, who says, that it was intended to be the last and greatest monument of his youth. Norden, who must have seen it in its pristine glory, gives the following description of it: "In the hall there are raised three pyramids, very high standing insteade of a shryne, the midst whereof ascendeth unto the roofe of the hall, the other two equal with the syde walls of the same hall, and on them are de-painted the arms of all the gentlemen of the same shire, and of all the noblemen of this land. The situation of the same house is very pleasantlie contrived, mountinge on a hill, environed with most ample and lardge fields, and goodly pastures, manie young groves newly planted, both pleasant and profitable; fishe ponds well replenished, a parke adjoyninge of fallow deare, with a large warren of conyes not farr from the house, lyinge between East-Haddon and Long

Bugbye. About the house are great store of hares; and above the rest is especially to be noated, with what industrye and toyle of man the garden hath been raised, levelled, and formed out of a most craggye and unprofitable grounde, now framed a moste pleasante, sweet, and princely place, with divers walks, manie ascendings and descendings, replenished also with manie delightful trees of fruite, artificially composed arbors, and a destilling house on the west end of the same garden; over which is a ponde of water, brought by conduit pypes out of the feyld adjoininge on the west, a quarter of a mile from the same house. To conclude, the state of the same house is such, and so beautiful, that it may well delight a prince."

The manor and house of Holdenby subsequently devolved to the crown, and formed first a palace, and then a prison, for the unfortunate monarch Charles the First. Of this structure, which was probably demolished by order of parliament, some arches, pyramids, walls, and the grand entrance gateway, were standing in the year 1729; but most of the remains have been removed to raise or to be incorporated with, other buildings. Some famous stone gateways remained in 1806, but the premises in general had undergone great dilapidation.

Resuming our road, at the distance of about five miles from Spratton, we arrive at Kingsthorpe, a pleasant village, which from time immemorial has been a royal demesne. At the southern extremity of the village at its entrance from Northampton, stood the hospital of St. David, or, as it is styled in some records, of the Holy Trinity: it consisted of one large range of buildings, containing three rows of beds, for the poor, the sick, and the stranger, with one chapel dedicated to St. David, and another to the Holy Trinity. Bridges mentions the ruins; but nothing can at present be traced, excepting an arch or two in some cottage walls.

This hospital was founded in the year 1200, at the

instance of Peter de Northampton, and Henry his son, rector of this parish, and with the approbation of the Prior of St. Andrew, who granted the site, and in whom was vested the appointment of the master. At the dissolution, the clear yearly rental was 24*l.* 6*s.*

Journey from Crick to Northampton; through West Haddon.

Crick is a large village, pleasantly situated at the north-western part of the county.

About two miles northward from this place is the village of Lilborn, where it is generally supposed was the station *Tripontium;* though some of our antiquaries differ in opinion respecting it. Camden, by inverting the order in Antoninus's Itinerary, places it at Towcester; Horsley prefers Bugby; but Gale and Stukeley are decisive in appropriating it to a spot on the banks of the Avon, in this neighbourhood. Morton observes, that on the banks of this river was anciently a castle, but by whom or at what period erected, he does not inform us. There are certain vestiges of what might be conjectured to be the site of a castle; but on a nearer examination, they will appear more to resemble a Roman fortification. The work is a square elevated area, containing about a quarter of an acre, with a foss and vallum, parts of which, on the eastern and western sides, are still visible; at the south-east and south-west angles, are aggera, probably the sites of two pretoria.

Two miles north-east from Lilborn is the village of Stanford, in the church of which are several handsome monuments erected to the memory of the Cave family.

Resuming our road, at the distance of two miles from Crick, we pass through the village of West Haddon. In West Haddon-field is an artificial mount called Oster-hill, under which, if credence be due to the tradition of the neighbourhood, were interred several officers, who fell in a dreadful engagement, fought here between the royal and baronial troops.

About three miles to the south-west of West Haddon, is Long Buckley; one mile to the east of which place, in our road, is the village of East Haddon; two miles beyond which, to the right of our road is Althorpe-park, the seat of Earl Spencer. The house, which is large, occupies three sides of a quadrangle, and was built by the Earl of Sunderland, in the year 1688. This estate is stated by Mr. Gough to have "belonged to the Spencers ever since the reign of Henry the Seventh. Robert Lord Spencer was succeeded, 1627, by his son William, and he, 1637, by his son Henry, created Earl of Sunderland after the battle of Edgehill, 1642, and slain at the battle of Newbury the same year." It is remarked by Morton, that Althorpe is memorable for three things:—"1. The exactness of the proportions of all the parts both without and within, and particularly that of the gallery. 2. For the dry moat which encompasses the house on three sides. 3. For the park." These things, which were deemed objects of admiration by the natural historian, are no longer considered as such: for, as an example of domestic architecture, this house does not present the least claims to beauty, grandeur, or symmetry. The moat, which was originally filled with water, is obliterated, and the squared garden plots, walks, &c. have been superseded by level lawns. The contents of this mansion are, however, highly interesting and valuable; in its large and fine collection of pictures, and vast library of choice books: in the latter article, the noble proprietor is laudably emulous of possessing the most enlarged and selected collection in England, and it is generally admitted that he has succeeded. The books at this place fill three or four apartments, besides which, his lordship has a much larger library at his house in London. The park at Althorpe is distinguished by large masses of forest trees, and great inequality of surface in the natural disposition of its grounds.

In the church of the village of Brington, situated about half a mile westward from Althorpe, are seve-

ral large and stately monuments, to different persons of the Spencer family.

Nearly adjoining the south-eastern extremity of Althorpe-park, is Harlestone-house, the residence of Robert Andrews, esq. It is a plain comfortable mansion, situated in a pleasant, though small park: new offices have been lately erected, various plantations made, and other improvements adopted, which evince both the taste and spirit of its present possessor.

The village of Harlestone is situated in our road, three miles from East Haddon; and, three miles farther, we pass on our left the village of Dallington, the church of which contains several handsome monuments commemorative of the Raynsford family. About one mile beyond this place we arrive at Northampton.

Journey from Ashby Legers to Potterspury; through Daventry and Towcester.

Ashby Legers is a small village, situated upon a rivulet that forms a contributary stream to the river Nen. In the church of this parish is a monument to the memory of William Catesby, one of the three favourites who ruled the kingdom under the usurpation of Richard the Third. The manorial house of Ashby is a good old family mansion, at present occupied by the widow of the late John Ashley, esq. who purchased it of the Jansons.

Ashby Lodge, about a mile north-west from the village, is a handsome house, in the modern style; it is the seat of G. H. Arnold, esq.

About two miles to the west of Ashby Legers is Braunston, a small village on the borders of Warwickshire, where the Oxford canal joins the line of the Grand Junction. The church, which is a large handsome structure, has a fine octangular spire (150 feet in height), with crocketted angles. Here was a stone cross, near the upper end of the village, composed of four ledges of diverging steps, on which was raised a shaft of an octagonal shape, cut out of one block of stone, though eleven feet in height, and surmounted

with a kind of entablature, decorated with four busts, supposed to be representative of the four evangelists: it is supposed to have been erected by the convent of Nuneaton. This has been destroyed some years.

The steep and dangerous hill at Braunston has been avoided by a new line carried down a small valley on the north side of the old road; and the valley west of the village has been filled up, and rendered safe and commodious.

Returning to our road, on leaving Ashby Lægers, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and, at the distance of three miles, we pass through DAVENTRY, a very ancient town, and certainly a place of note at the Norman conquest; and, from the old spelling and present pronunciation of its name (Daintree), and especially from the bearings on its common seal, (a Dane and a tree), has been generally supposed to have been founded by the Danes. But the ingenious Mr. Pennant thinks "its origin much more remote," and finds a better derivation in the British words, *Dwy-avon-tre, i.e.* the town of the two Avons, exactly descriptive of the place, which is situated between two rivers, bearing the same name. That it was a place of some note at the Conquest, appears by the account of it in Doomsday Book; in the time of which survey it formed part of the immense possessions bestowed by the Conqueror on his niece, the Countess Judith, whom he had married to the brave Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland; and farther to engage the fidelity of this powerful nobleman, he gave with her this county, and that of Huntingdon. Waltheof unfortunately engaged in a conspiracy, and, notwithstanding he repented, and threw himself at the foot of the throne, and supplicated an amnesty for himself and followers, he was beheaded in the year 1074, at the instigation of his wife. It seemed she had cast her adulterous eye on another person, but was disappointed; for the king offered to her Simon de Liz, a noble Norman, lame of one leg,—him she rejected; which so enraged her uncle, that he deprived her of the two earldoms, and

gave them to de Liz, with her eldest daughter, which obliged Judith to a state of penitential widowhood during life.

Daventry, containing many good houses and inns, and being the thoroughfare to Chester and the north-west country, derives its principal support from the travellers that pass through it.

Here are some remains of a priory, which is now inhabited by poor families. The place is easily discovered by several Gothic windows, and a door accessible only by a great flight of steps. Four Cluniac monks were originally placed at Preston-Capes, in this county, by Hugh de Leycester, sheriff of the county, and steward to Maud, sister to the first St. Liz, Earl of Huntingdon; but, finding the situation inconvenient for want of water, he built a priory here, to which place he removed them about the year 1090; it was dedicated to St. Augustine. and was subordinate to St. Mary de Caritate. This house, by the long list of grants and benefactions, was most richly endowed, a circumstance that did not escape the keen observation of Cardinal Wolsey; for it was one of the monasteries dissolved by the permission of Pope Clement the Seventh, and King Henry the Eighth, in the seventh year of his reign, and granted to the cardinal for the purpose of erecting his intended new colleges of Ipswich and Christ-church in Oxford. On the suppression of this priory, its spiritualities were valued at 115*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* and the temporalities at 120*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* The conventual was afterwards made the parochial church, and thence the buildings extended northward, which was a few years since taken down and handsomely built; but it is no more than a curacy in the gift of Christ-church college.

Daventry, though it sends no members to parliament, is a borough, with considerable privileges. Its charter is supposed to have been granted in the reign of King John, and was renewed in that of Elizabeth. The corporation consists of thirteen burgesses, one of whom is annually chosen bailiff, a recorder, town-

clerk, two head, and two sub-wardens, and twenty common council-men. The bailiff, for the time being, is justice of the peace, and also the year following, and is likewise coroner of the inquest. These two justices, with the recorder, or his substitute, the town-clerk, constitute a quorum. They can arrest for any sum under one hundred pounds, and decide the cause in their own court. In criminal causes they can commit to the county jail; and they hold quarterly sessions for the parish as a distinct district, which has no concern with the juries, sessions, or rates of the county. In the reign of Edward the Third, the manor was assigned to the celebrated John of Gaunt, of whose castle there are some obscure remains, and annexed to the duchy of Lancaster.

The town stands upon the great road from London to West Chester, and contains, according to the late population act, 639 houses, and 3326 inhabitants: it has a good market on Wednesday. An extensive whip manufactory is now kept by Dickens and Co. Here is also a gallery of pictures for exhibition and sale.

About half a mile to the south of the town are the celebrated entrenchments, which surround the summit of an insulated hill, now called by its Saxon name, Borough-hill, but which, Mr. Pennant says, is the strong-hold of the Britons, called by Tacitus, Benvenna, from its British name, Ben Avon, or the head over the river. These vast works enclose a beautiful flat, nearly oval, and singular for extent and elevation, round which there is a two-mile course, though the annual races are now discontinued. From the vicinity of the old Roman road, this fortress has generally been reckoned Roman; but its form, in Mr. Pennant's opinion, proves it to have been originally British, though doubtless often occupied by Roman and other armies; and last of all, by that of Charles the First, a few days previous to the battle of Naseby.

At the foot of the hill, towards the south, is a remarkable spot, denominated Burnt Walls, where various walls, arched vaults, foundations of buildings,

&c. have been discovered, and whence large quantities of stone have, at different times, been removed, for the purposes of building. The space which these occupy contains about six acres, and appears to have formerly been surrounded with a foss. Both the approaches to the town of Daventry having been inconveniently steep, have been improved, much to the accommodation of travellers.

On leaving Daventry, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and, at the distance of about three miles, pass, on our right, the village of Weedon Beck, where it is said Wulphur, king of Mercia, had a palace, which was afterwards converted into a convent by his daughter Werburgh. Here was a cell to the abbey of Bee in Normandy. The name of Weedon Royal is modern, and has arisen from a large military depôt for arms, stores, &c. erected and formed during the late war. The nunnery founded by Werburgh was burnt by the Danes. Leland says, that, in his time, a chapel dedicated to that female was standing, attached to the south side of the church. The military buildings, called the *Depôt*, consist of the governor's house; also barracks, with several spacious storehouses for artillery, muskets, ammunition, &c. A cut for the Grand Junction canal is formed to communicate with the store-houses here; and by this canal the stores and troops can be readily and cheaply conveyed to almost any part of England.

About half a mile south of Weedon is the village of Stowe. In the church of Stowe, commonly called Stowe-nine-churches, from the circumstance of the Lord of the Manor having had the right of presentation to that number, is a magnificent monument, highly worthy the attention of the curious traveller, whether the worth which it was erected to commemorate, or the skill of the artist by whom it was executed, be taken into consideration. This, which Mr. Pennant styles the "most elegant tomb that this or any other kingdom can boast of," is sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, fourth daughter of John Lord Latimer.

The figure is certainly a fine piece of sculpture, in white alabaster, recumbent on a black slab. The attitude is happily chosen, being the most easy possible, that of a person in sleep; her head, reclining on a cushion, is covered with a hood, with a quilted ruff round her neck; one hand is placed on her breast, and the other lies by her side; the gown, which covers her feet, flows in the most natural folds, and she lies on a long mantle lined with ermine, fastened at the neck with jewels: all is graceful, all would have been easy, had it not been for the preposterous fashion of the times, which is destructive of all beauty, grace, and symmetry. At the feet is a griffin couchant, holding a shield charged with the family arms. The figure lies on an altar-tomb of white marble, which is ornamented with various armorial bearings, and inscriptions on the sides: one of them states—

"Here lies intombed the body of the Honourable Lady ELIZABETH, 4th daughter, and co-heir of JOHN LATIMER, by the Lady Lucy Somerset, daughter of Henrie, Earl of Worcester, who was married unto Sir John Danvers, of Dantsey, in the county of Wilts, knight, by whom she had issue, three sons and seven daughters." The other inscriptions relate to her children; for commemorating whose virtues and her own affections, she caused this monument to be erected in her life-time:—

Sic familia præclara
Præclarior prole
Virtute præclarissima
} { Ætatis 84 Anno Dm°. 1630.
Commutavit sæcula; non obiit.

This handsome and interesting monument was executed by Nicholas Stone, who was a master mason, statuary and stone-cutter to King James, and Charles the Second. He was an artist of some celebrity at that time: and parts of the present specimen are honourable testimonies of his abilities. From a note that Vertue preserved of his, it appears that, "March 16, 1617, I undertook to make a tombe for my lady, mother of Lord Danvers, which was all of white mar-

bell and *touch*, and I set it up at Stow-of-the-nine-churches in Northamptonshire, som two yeare after. One altar tombe; for which I had 220 li." When Pennant first visited this church, the monument here alluded to was "going fast to decay;" but since then it has been carefully cleaned and repaired, and is now guarded by the rector, the Rev. Mr. Crawley, with laudable care and attention. As an example of the taste of the age and state of sculpture when it was executed, this may be deemed a very interesting piece of art. The head appears to be a portrait of the lady, and was probably executed from a cast.

On the north side of the chancel is a large marble mural monument, or cenotaph, raised to the memory of Dr. Thomas Turner, who was born in Bristol, 1645, and buried in 1714, in the chapel of Corpus-Christi college, Oxford. This benevolent man expended a large fortune in acts of charity; and, at his death, after bequeathing 4000*l.* to his relations and friends, directed the residue of his property to be applied to public charities. He augmented the stipends of the poorer members of Ely Cathedral, in which he was prebend; left 100*l.* to be expended in apprenticing poor children of that city; 6000*l.* for improving the buildings of Corpus Christi college, Oxford, of which he had been president; and 20,000*l.* for the purchase of estates, the revenues of which were to be applied towards the relief of the poor widows and children of the clergy. His executors accordingly bought the manor, &c. of Stowe; also the other lands of West Wrotting, in Cambridgeshire, to the value of 1000*l.* a year and upwards. The price of this manor was 16,000*l.* The monument records the charities of this worthy divine, a statue of whom is represented in his master of arts robes, on a terrestrial globe, with a book in his hand. A canopy over his head is supported by two fluted columns of the Corinthian order; and the monument is adorned with two large statues emblematic of religion and benevolence. The whole was executed by Thomas Stayner.

One mile and a half south from Stowe is the village of Farthingstone, where, on the brow of a hill, are some ancient fortifications, denominated the Castle Dykes, from a tradition that anciently a castle stood on the site. The works are so overgrown with wood, that it is difficult to ascertain their form and extent; they include an area of about thirteen acres, and consist of two strongholds, divided by a ditch, running from east to west, and the whole surrounded by two walls, separated by a foss from fifteen to twenty feet deep, and nearly one hundred feet broad, from vallum to vallum.

About one mile to the south-east of the last-mentioned place, is Lichborough, or Litchborough, supposed to have been one of the four British garrisoned towns taken by the Saxons, in the year 571; the name certainly accords better with the chronicle than either Loughborough, in Leicestershire, or Leighton, in Bedfordshire, at which places Lycanburgh has been placed by Camden and Gibson.

Returning to our road, at about twelve miles from Daventry, we arrive at TOWCESTER, a handsome old town, commonly called Toseter, and, in the Doomsday Book, Tovecestre; it is situated on a plain, near the banks of a small river, named Tove. Numerous Roman coins have been found here, particularly about Berrymount-hill, an artificial mount, on the north-east side of the town; it is flat on the top, about 24 feet in height, and the diameter 102. This hill was surrounded by a moat, capable of being filled with water from the adjoining brook, and has every appearance of having been a Roman fortification. Horsley places here the station Lactodoro, with greater probability of correctness than at Stony-Stratford, as Gale and Stukely have done; though, indeed, both places have an equal claim, as to their being on a great Roman road. On the south-west side of the town are vestiges of a foss, and the ruins of a castle or tower, probably a Saxon work; for at that period this town appears to have been a place of considerable strength, and is said to

have been so well fortified, that the Danes who besieged it were unable to take it: it must, however, have suffered at some time from these people, for, in the year 921, King Edward issued his mandate for rebuilding and fortifying Towcester, and afterwards surrounding it with a stone wall.

Towcester at present consists principally of one long street, the houses of which are generally well-built, and, being a great thoroughfare, there are several good inns. There was a church here at the Conquest, which was given to the abbey of St. Wandragasile, in Normandy. In the present church there is nothing remarkable, excepting the tomb of William Sponne, archdeacon of Norfolk, and rector of this parish, in the reign of Henry VI. He founded here a college and chantry for two priests, to say mass for his soul, and the souls of his friends. At the dissolution, it was worth 19*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a year.—Archdeacon Sponne was likewise a great benefactor to the town, and his charities are still felt here, governed by feoffees.

Between Towcester and Weedon, the present road passed over a succession of steep hills, and deep vallies, till it was recently improved by direction of the parliamentary commissioners. It now goes to the north of Foster's Booth, passes near the village of Pattishall, and Bugbrook Wharf, of the Grand Junction Canal, and joins the present road near Weedon; by this, a road is obtained not exceeding 1 in 25 and 30.

By the returns made under the population act, in the year 1821, the number of houses appears to be 529, and inhabitants 2554. The principal manufacture here at present is lace of a superior quality. Its market is on Tuesdays.

This manor, after various changes, became the property of the famous Sir Richard Empson, one of the instruments of the avarice and oppression of Henry VII. who, in the year 1509, lost his head,

with Edmund Dudley, on Tower-hill. They had incensed the people to such a degree, that Henry was constrained to submit to popular remonstrance, and sign his hand for their execution. Empson had been the son of a sieve-maker, in this town; and by his great abilities in the profession of the law, he was promoted to the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster; but, by his mean submission to the will of his rapacious master, fell a victim, in the next reign, to the demands of an enraged nation. Empson was tried at Northampton.

About one mile and a half east from Towcester, is Easton Neston, the seat of the Earl of Pomfret. The wings were built by Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1682, the centre by Hawkesmore, about twenty years after; but since their time it has been considerably altered. This mansion has been rendered eminent in the estimation of artists and connoisseurs, from the splendid collection of ancient marbles, pictures, &c. which formerly decorated and gave dignity to the place. The statues, &c. were presented in the year 1755 to the university of Oxford, by Henrietta Louisa, Countess of Pomfret, a lady distinguished for her literary talents.

Resuming our road at the distance of about four miles from Towcester, we arrive at Potterspury, a village, which takes its name from a manufacture of coarse ware, such as flower-pots, &c. which has been long carried on here. Between this place and old Stratford, viz. at Cuttle-mill, the road has been removed from the formerly deep and dangerous dingle, and passes an easy, safe, and new road of proper form and dimensions, a little to the southward of the mill.

About one mile westward from this village is Wakefield-lodge, the seat of the Duke of Grafton, hereditary ranger, it is delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, which slopes gradually to the margin of a large lake. Standing in the centre of Whittlebury-

forest, many beautiful rides branch off in almost every direction from the house, which is a large mansion built by a Mr. Cleypole, son-in-law of Cromwell.

One mile and a half to the north-west of the last-mentioned place is Shelbrook-lawn, a handsome house, the seat of the Honourable General Fitzroy.

Within about half a mile of Whittlebury-green, near the above seat, is a neat hunting-box, erected by Lord Southampton. On the opposite side of the green, the Honourable and Rev. Henry Beauclerk has a good house, surrounded with pleasure grounds, tastfully laid out, and opening into the wild scenery of the forest.

At Silverstone is the seat of the Honourable J. C. Villiers, called Whittlebury-lodge, and also that of J. Beauclerk, esq.

Between two and three miles to the south of Potterspury, is the village of Passenham, where Edward the elder encamped, to cover his workmen, who were employed in building the walls of Towcester, from being interrupted by the Danes. A square entrenchment is supposed to have been cast up by him, and garrisoned for that purpose.

The church is small, and without aisles; dedicated to Guthlaius, the saint of the fens. It was rebuilt in the year 1626, at the sole expence of Sir Robert Banastre. This gentleman was lord of the manor, and died in the year 1649, aged about eighty. His figure is a half-length, with a book in his hand, placed against the wall.

Journey from Daventry to Edgcott; through Byfield.

On leaving Daventry, we proceed southerly, and at the distance of two miles pass, on our left, Badby, a considerable village, situated on the ascent of a hill, which forms part of an uninclosed district, comprising a large sandy heath, called Badby-down. There are in this parish several quarries of a hard blue stone, known by the name of rag-stone, which is found very serviceable for building and paving. Arberry,

or Arbury-hill, to the west of the village, is celebrated for having on its summit a large encampment, supposed to have been a work of the Romans. The ramparts are very steep, and the foss which nearly surrounds the whole, is very wide, and twenty feet deep: the figure is irregular, approximating to a square, and inclosed an area of about ten acres.

At the distance of one mile and a half to the west of Badby is the village of Catesby, where was a priory of Benedictine Nuns, founded by Robert, son of Phillip de Esseby, as early as the reign of Richard the First.

About one mile to the south-east of Badby is Fawsley-house, the ancient seat of the Knightlys, whose ancestor purchased it in the reign of Henry the Fifth. It is now occupied by Sir Charles Knightly, bart. It is delightfully situated in Fawsley-park, and is a motley building of different ages, and incongruously combined. Some of the oldest parts are curious, as calculated to display the customs and manners of our baronial ancestors. The kitchen, as Mr. Pennant observes, is "most hospitably divided." The chimney consists of two funnels, and on each side of the partition is an enormous fire-place; one being 12 feet six inches, and the other 14 feet 10 inches wide, with double arched mantel-pieces of stone. The hall, which is fifty-two feet in length, is very lofty, and has a timbered roof curiously carved. The grand bow window, which forms the recess, is richly ornamented with stone tracery and sculptured decorations: the chimney-piece of this room is very curious; it is large, grand, admirably contrived, and richly decorated with tracery mouldings; immediately over it is a large handsome window, the smoke being conveyed through two funnels, carried up inside the collateral buttresses of the fire-place, by which contrivance the uniformity of the hall is equally preserved as to windows, as though it had no chimney. Among the pictures preserved here are some curious

portraits of the Knightly family, and others of eminent persons. The park, which is well stocked with deer, consists of a fine improved demesne, which abounds with ornamental forest woods. In the vallies are some well-disposed pieces of water, in a finely wooded dell.

The parish of FAWSLEY, which gives name to the hundred, is situated in a well-wooded country, and principally consists of the demesne and park appendant to Fawsley-house. Near the latter is the village church, which is very neatly fitted up, and contains several fine monuments, raised to different persons of the Knightly family, who have beenl ords of this place ever since the time of King Henry the Third.

Among the monuments in Fawsley church, that of Sir Richard Knightly, who died in 1616, and Jane his wife, has sculptured figures in alabaster in recumbent postures, on an altar tomb. He is represented in armour, over which is thrown an herald's mantle, and a mail doublet over his thighs. This Sir Richard was several times returned member of parliament for the county. He was a most distinguished patron of the puritans, and, persuaded by the celebrated Snape and other ministers of the party, he was induced to expend large sums of money in printing incendiary pamphlets against the establishment. The mode in which such "swarms of libels were brought into existence, that they darkened the atmosphere by their numbers, and with their poisonous effluvia filled the land, is singularly curious." Not only were itinerant preachers appointed to declaim against existing grievances, but itinerant printers, and portable presses moved from one place to another, for furthering the no-episcopacy scheme. One Waldgrave, who had the conduct of those which had been brought down from Moulsey to Fawsley, on their way to Manchester, was for some time detained here by Sir Richard. And subsequently Waldgrave and the workmen having been seized by the Earl of Derby at Manchester, the secret was disclosed, Sir Richard, and other abettors were

cited in the Star-chamber Court for the offence, severely censured, and ordered to be fined and imprisoned. But on the intercession of the pious and amiable Archbishop Whitgift, who had been a chief object of their slanderous assertions and insults, the fines were remitted, and their persons set at liberty.

The family appears to have been hostile to the establishment, till its suppression; for Mr. Richard Knightly, in the reign of Charles the First, was one of the most zealous promoters of the discontents between the king and his subjects, which unhappily broke out soon after into an open warfare. In Fawsley-house, the grand scheme on which the malecontents determined to act, was matured, and the conduct concluded upon, to which they solemnly engaged to adhere; viz. The retrenchment of regal power; 1. in the right of making war and peace; 2. in the sole disposal and ordering of the militia; 3. in the nomination of all great officers to places of trust, and profit; 4. in the disposal of the revenues, which were proposed to be placed under the management and controul of four several councils, to be appointed by parliament; and who should be empowered to act without any summons or writ, from the crown. A plan highly plausible in theory, but, as the event proved, difficult to execute, and disastrous in the issue.

Dr. John Wilkins, a celebrated divine and mathematician, was a native of Fawsley, having been born in the house of his maternal grandfather, the Rev. John Dod, (well known under the appellation of the *Decalogist*), though his father was a goldsmith in Oxford. In 1627 he was admitted a student of New-inn, Oxford, at the early age of thirteen, whence removing to Magdalen college, and having graduated, he entered into holy orders, and was appointed chaplain to Lord Say, and soon after to George, Count Palatine of the Rhine.

Wilkins was a striking instance of the fluctuation of opinions of individuals, and the heterogeneous conduct of government in the eventful period during

which he lived. On the civil war breaking out he joined the presbyterian faction, and subscribed to the covenant; and in 1648 was appointed to the wardenship of Wadham college, by the committee formed for the reformation of the University. Having legally vacated this trust, by his marrying Robina, sister of Oliver Cromwell, through his connection with the usurper, he obtained a dispensation of the statutes in his favour, and retained his station. By his nephew, Richard Cromwell, he was made master of Trinity college, Cambridge; but was rejected the following year, on the Restoration. Subsequently conforming to the established church, he was successively preferred to be preacher to the Society of Gray's-inn, to the living of St. Lawrence, Jewry, to the deanery of Ripon; and, through the interest of the Duke of Buckingham was advanced, in 1658, to the Bishoprick of Chester: in which see he died, Nov. 19, 1672. The extent and universality of his learning have been generally allowed.

Returning to our road, at the distance of two miles beyond Badby, we pass through the small village of Charwelton; about one mile and a half beyond which is the village of Byfield; and one mile and a half to the east of this village is Woodford, in the parish of which, on the banks of the Nen, are some ancient remains, which in the Magna Britannia, are said to display "manifest signs of a place possessed by the Romans; for, in a piece of ground called the Meadow-furlong," many tessellæ, tiles and fragments of pottery have been found.

About one mile and a half to the south-east of Woodford is Ashby Cannons, which received the latter appellation from a priory of Black Canons, probably founded by Stephen de Leye, in the reign of Henry the Second; the annual value of which, at the dissolution, amounted to 112*l.* 8*s.* 4¾*d.* Nothing remains of the monastery but the small church, in which are sepulchral mementos of several of the Dryden family, who came into possession of the

manor after the Copes. The mansion-house, Cannons Ashby, now the seat of Lady Dryden, is a moderate sized structure, built in an age when strength and stability were more consulted in architectural designs than regularity and symmetry. The only thing remarkable in the present building is a room 30 feet by 20, which is said to be entirely floored and wainscotted with the timber contained in a single oak-tree, which grew on this lordship.

At the distance of four miles from Byfield, a little to the left of the turnpike-road, we arrive at Edgecott, a large village, remarkable for a bloody battle fought between the English and the Danes, in which the latter were totally defeated. There was another battle fought here during the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster; in which the Yorkists were defeated, and 5000 of their men slain.

Near the above village is another called Chipping Warden, which appears to be of great antiquity, and was probably a Roman station: many foundations having been dug up here at different times, and coins have been found under the ruins; but history is silent as to the time it was built, though in all probability it was soon after the reign of the Emperor Claudius.

Journey from Daventry to Billing Magna; through Northampton.

On leaving Daventry our road lies easterly, and at the distance of five miles we pass through the village of Flore, or Flower, called in the Doomsday-book Flora, perhaps from the pleasantness of its situation. The church of this village was given, in the reign of King John, to Merton Abbey, in Surry; but at the dissolution was granted to Christ-church, Oxford, to which college it now belongs.

Four miles beyond the last-mentioned place is the village of Duston, where was formerly the ancient monastery of St. James's Abbey, which was founded by William Peverel, natural son of William the Conqueror, for Black Canons of the Augustine order.

By the survey taken of the revenues in the year 1553, the clear annual income amounted to 175*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and in the year 1559 it was, with its possessions, surrendered to the royal commissioners. Some remains of the walls and foundations are all the vestiges traceable at present of this ancient and well-endowed monastery.

To the south of Duston, on the opposite side of the road, is Upton-hall, the seat of Colonel Samwell, who has greatly improved the mansion-house and contiguous grounds. The house is a large irregular building of brick and stone, partly ancient and partly modern. It is pleasantly situated, commanding a fine view to the south, on a gravelly soil, and contains some good apartments, in which are many family and other portraits.

At the distance of two miles beyond Upton, we pass through Northampton; about one mile beyond which is Abington, the seat of John Harvey Thursby, esq. The house is a plain commodious edifice, surrounded by a small walled park.

A short distance to the east of the last-mentioned place is Weston Favell, a pleasant village, which once boasted of three mansions, belonging to the families of Ekins, Holman, and Harvey, all of which are dilapidated. The Rev. James Harvey, the popular author of Meditations, &c. who possessed this rectory, and preached here many years to overflowing congregations, lies in the chancel, under a plain stone marked by a simple inscription, and his house at Weston Favell, has been converted into a residence for the poor.

Two miles beyond the last-mentioned place is the village of Billing Magna, the manor of which, with a "handsome old house," were possessed for many generations by the Earls of Thomond. Here is a small almshouse for one man and four women, founded by John Freeman, esq. by will, in the reign of James the First.

At a short distance to the west is situated Little

Billing, the property and residence of the Longuevilles, from the time of Edward the Second to that of Charles the First. A very small portion of the ancient edifice now remains. A little further westward is the village of Collingtree, the birth-place of the Rev. William Wood, F. L. S.

Journey from Warkworth to Brackley.

Warkworth is a small village, situated at the south-western extremity of the county. On leaving this place, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and at the distance of two miles we pass, on our right, the village of Newbottle, where is an old manor-house, which formerly belonged to the earls of Thanet.

In the hamlet of Charlton, in this parish, is a fortification called Rainsborough, which is described in a manuscript preserved in the museum at Oxford, but since the time of this writer the encampment has undergone considerable alteration.

About two miles to the north-east of Newbottle, on the left of our road, is Steane, the manor of which was once the property of the distinguished family of the Crewes, (now of Cheshire) many of whom were interred in the church, wherein are still several monuments to their memory.

Returning to our road, at the distance of seven miles from Warkworth, we arrive at BRACKLEY, a small market-town, and a place of great antiquity, and said to be one of the oldest boroughs in England. It is pleasantly situated near the source of the river Ouse.

This town is greatly decayed from what it was in former times, when it was particularly celebrated for its great trade in wool. There are, however, still some remains of its ancient grandeur; namely, two churches; St. Peter's and St. James; the former of which is still the parochial church, and the latter only a chapel of ease to it; a free-school, and an hospital, kept in good repair by the president and

fellows of Magdalen college, Oxford. The weekly market is on Wednesday, and the town, according to the late population act, consisted of 341 houses, and 1551 inhabitants.

The privilege of sending members to parliament was, in the first of Edward I., vested in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of this borough, who consisted of 33 persons. It is governed by a mayor, six aldermen, and twenty-six burgesses. The mayor is chosen annually, at the court-leet of the manor. Its present and only manufacture is lace.

To the south-west of this town is a village called Aynho, where there was an hospital founded in the reign of Henry the Second, the rents of which, after its dissolution, were annexed to the revenues of Magdalen college, Oxford. Here are also a charity-school and a grammar-school.

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